FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-224
Thursday
19 November 1992

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-224 19 November 1992

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Rabinovich, al-'Allaf See 'Deadlock' in Talks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ____ 2
Al-'Allaf Predicts Short Session for 19 Nov *[Damascus Radio]* ____ 2
Al-'Allaf: No Compromise on Withdrawal *[Damascus Radio]* ____ 2
Al-'Allaf on Peace Talks, Clinton Administration *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 14-15 Nov]* ____ 2
Jordanian Spokesman on Draft Agenda With Israel *[Amman Radio]* ____ 4
Lebanon's Salayd Comments on End of Seventh Round *[Beirut Radio]* ____ 4
'Arafat Adviser Sha'th Discusses Peace Talks *[Cairo International]* ____ 5

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Warns of Possible Withdrawal From Talks *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Nov]* ____ 6
Hamas Spokesman on Self-Rule, PLO, Intifadah *[AL-'AHD 30 Oct]* ____ 7
Economic Pressure Urged To Change Clinton's Stance *[AL-NAHAR 17 Nov]* ____ 8

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Mubarak Request for Rabin-'Arafat Meeting Reported *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ____ 10
Mubarak Comments on 'Scurrilous' Iranian Attacks *[MENA]* ____ 10
Iran's 'Oppressive Dictatorial Regime' Denounced *[Cairo Radio]* ____ 10
Sudan Accused of Backing 'Terrorists' *[AKHBAR AL-YAWM 14 Nov]* ____ 11
Tourism Ministry Urges Standing Up to Criminals *[AKHBAR AL-YAWM 14 Nov]* ____ 12
Ministry Gives Tourist Groups Extra Security *[AL-WAFD 16 Nov]* ____ 12
Prosecution Seeks Maximum Sentence for Terrorists *[MENA]* ____ 13
Mubarak Leaves for 3-Day Visit to France *[MENA]* ____ 13
Minister Interviewed on U.S. Aid, Reducing Debts *[AL-AKHBAR 8 Nov]* ____ 13
Region Sees an 'Arab Bosnia Again' Under Clinton *[AL-AHRAM 12 Nov]* ____ 14
'Zionist' Lobby Pressure on Clinton Viewed *[AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I 8 Nov]* ____ 15
More on 'Zionist' Interference *[AL-AKHBAR 9 Nov]* ____ 15
Columnist Expects Clinton To 'Favor' Israel *[AL-ARALI 11 Nov]* ____ 16
Daily Says Change in U.S. Policy 'Unlikely' *[Cairo Radio]* ____ 17

Libya

General People's Congress Announces Appointments *[Tripoli TV]* ____ 17
People's Congress Statement Assails Sanctions *[Tripoli TV]* ____ 18
Envoy, Beirut-Cloth Discuss Crisis With West *[JANA]* ____ 18
Source Denies Receiving Message *[MENA]* ____ 19
Opposition Says Al-Qadhdhafi in Charge of Foreign Affairs *[London AL-HAYAH 14 Nov]* ____ 19

Mauritania

President Holds Talks With Algerian Leader *[APS]* ____ 19
Western Saharan Representative Meets President *[Nouakchott Radio]* ____ 19

Prime Minister Visits Belgium, Returns *[Nouakchott Radio]* 20
Foreign Minister Interviewed on Union Policies *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Nov]* 20

Sudan

Chadian Rebel Group Surrenders Arms to Authorities *[SUNA]* 21
Chad's Deby Begins Official Visit 16 Nov *[Ndjamena Radio]* 21
Holds Talks With Al-Bashir *[Omdurman Radio]* 21
Calls Talks 'Successful'; Departs *[SUNA]* 21
Egyptian Economy Minister Visits 22
Meets With Commerce Minister *[SUNA]* 22
Confers With Al-Bashir *[SUNA]* 22
Trade Committees Formed With Egypt *[SUNA]* 22
Assassination Attempt Against Gaming Fails *[Omdurman Radio]* 22

IRAQ

PKK's Ocalan Interviewed on Turkish TV *[Ankara TV]* 24
Kurdistan Radio Reports Shelling Near Khanaqin *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 25
Shiite Radio Claims Raid on Regime Forces *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 25
Minister Oversees 2d Military Exercise Since War *[Amman Radio]* 25
Deadline To Sell 'Prohibited Goods' Extended *[Baghdad Radio]* 26
Prime Minister on Cohesion Between Saddam, Iraqis *[Baghdad Radio]* 26
Ramadan Discusses POW's With ICRC Official *[INA]* 26
Russian Party Leader Talks With Peace Group Head *[INA]* 27
Meets With Assembly Speaker *[INA]* 27
Kurdish 'Legislative Council' Meets, Praises Saddam *[Baghdad Radio]* 27
Writer Criticizes Economic Sector Officials *[BABIL 15 Nov]* 27
Oil Minister on OPEC, Other Issues *[INA]* 28
Health Minister Departs for Conference in Tunis *[INA]* 30

ISRAEL

Security Situation in South Lebanon Reported 31
3 'Terrorists' Killed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
IDF Soldier Wounded *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Rabin Comments on Situation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Rabin Expects U.S. To Intervene If Talks Stall *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
'Arafat Says Talks Impossible Unless 242 Accepted *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 31
German Foreign Minister Kinkel Continues Visit 32
Holds News Conference *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 32
Speaks at Dinner With Peres *[Berlin DDP]* 33
Discusses Ties With Rabin *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Joint Statement Issued *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
German Chief of Staff Visits Holocaust Memorial *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Proposes Soldier Training *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Holds News Conference *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Rabin Calls Mubarak on Anniversary of al-Sadat Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Deputy Defense Minister Comments on Current Issues *[AL-AHRAM 12 Nov]* 34
Arrests Made in Rioting Outside U.S. Consulate *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
IDF Uses Antitank Missiles To Destroy Houses *[HADASHOT 16 Nov]* 36
Ministry Bans Weapons Sales to Areas of Tension *[HA'ARETZ 17 Nov]* 37
Ultraorthodox Protest Jerusalem Archaeological Dig *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37

JORDAN

Witness Reportedly 'Forced' To Testify in Deputies' Trial *[AL-SAFIR 14 Nov]* 38
King Decentes Military Judiciary, Court Members *[Amman Radio]* 40

LEBANON

U.S. 'Reopening' of Hostage Issue Criticized *[VOL]* ____ 42
Defense Minister Views Army, Resistance Roles *[MENA]* ____ 42
Shawqi Receives Russian Message on South *[VOL]* ____ 43
SLA, Israeli Positions Attacked 18 Nov *[VOL]* ____ 44
Resistance Attacks Lahd Militia 19 Nov *[Beirut Radio]* ____ 44

SYRIA

Israeli 'Maneuvering' Not Expected To Sway U.S. *[Damascus Radio]* ____ 45
Turkish-Iranian 'Rivalry' Causes Concern *[London AL-HAYAH 16 Nov]* ____ 45

SOUTH ASIA

Bangladesh

World Bank President Visits for Consultations ____ 47
Discusses Aid With Minister *[Dhaka Radio]* ____ 47
Meets With Prime Minister *[Dhaka Radio]* ____ 47
Commerce Minister Receives PRC Trade Delegation *[Dhaka Radio]* ____ 47
8-Year Export Development Strategy Promoted *[Dhaka Radio]* ____ 47
Norway To Provide 514.5 Million Taka in Grants *[Dhaka Radio]* ____ 48
Japan Grants 270 Million Taka for Microwave Links *[Dhaka Radio]* ____ 48
Diplomatic Ties Established With Armenia *[Dhaka Radio]* ____ 48

Iran

Khamenei's Addresses Basij on Accomplishments *[Tehran Radio]* ____ 48
Further on Egypt, U.S. *[IRNA]* ____ 50
Commander Interviewed on Start of Basij Week *[Tehran Radio]* ____ 51
Resumption of Ties With U.S. Ruled Out *[IRNA]* ____ 51
Mubarak's 'Nefarious Intensions' Decried *[TEHRAN TIMES 16 Nov]* ____ 52
Demirel, Rafsanjani Hold Phone Consultations *[Tehran Radio]* ____ 53
Turkish Prime Minister's Recent Visit Viewed ____ 53
Demirel on Kurds, Other Issues *[RESALAT 28 Oct]* ____ 53
Talks Called 'Effective,' 'Constructive' *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 29 Oct]* ____ 54
'Insults' of Azerbaijani President Decried *[RESALAT 7 Nov]* ____ 55
Central Asia Offered Communications Aid *[IRNA]* ____ 56
OPEC Urged To Control Production, Prices *[Tehran Radio]* ____ 56
A. Khamenyei on Islam-Atheism 'Confrontation' *[Tehran Radio]* ____ 56

Pakistan

Police Seize Bhutto, Opposition Leaders *[AFP]* ____ 57
Demonstration Day Passes 'Peacefully' *[Islamabad TV]* ____ 57
Bhutto's Status Clarified *[Islamabad Radio]* ____ 58
Opposition Activities Viewed *[Islamabad Radio]* ____ 58
Bhutto's Ban Noted *[Islamabad Radio]* ____ 59
Bhutto Claims Victory *[AFP]* ____ 59
Opposition Plans March for 21 Nov *[AFP]* ____ 59

Pakistan

The prime minister's special assistant told reporters that opposition leader Benazir Bhutto "was escorted out of Rawalpindi to Islamabad" and that "the government has no intention to arrest" her, Islamabad radio reports. The spokesman subsequently noted that "Bhutto's entry into Islamabad Federal Capital area and Rawalpindi District has been banned for 30 days." Meanwhile, Bhutto claimed victory and continued her "campaign to bring down the government," AFP reports. The agency notes that the opposition announced plans for more marches and meetings on 20 and 21 November.

Iran

In a speech broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i charged that the United States is encouraging the Arabs to go after Iran and "leave Israel alone" if they want "arms, protection, assistance." Khamene'i, who was addressing a Basiji audience, urged Arab governments not to be "fooled by America," and he denied allegations that Iran is inciting Muslims to violence. "We shout Islamic slogans and raise the banner of Islam, and anyone in whose heart the flame of Islam burns naturally rallies around that banner," he declared.

The Majles speaker ruled out the resumption of ties between Tehran and Washington, IRNA reported. The speaker termed "erroneous" the opinion that softening its stand toward the United States might help solve some of Iran's problems. "Can any just person show a single sign of Washington's goodwill?" he asked.

Iraq

Workers Party of Kurdistan (PKK) leader Osman Ocalan was recently interviewed by Ankara Show Television. In the interview, Ocalan insists that the PKK has not been defeated and that the agreement with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan was to move the PKK away from the border to "prevent the Turkish State from using the existence of our forces along the border as a pretext for its intervention in southern Kurdistan." Asked how many men he has in Turkey now, Ocalan said that there are "more than 7,000 organized guerrillas inside Turkey, including the forces we sent there as a result of the recent war on the border. If we add the thousands of armed militias, we have more than 10,000 armed troops inside Turkey."

Arab-Israeli Talks

Rabinovich, al-'Allaf See 'Deadlock' in Talks

TA1811190092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] The Washington peace talks between Israel and Syria this evening ended earlier than usual because of the parties' lack of willingness to provide details of their stands on the issue of withdrawal. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said that the talks cannot go on like this for long. Our correspondent Eldad Berk is on the telephone from Washington:

Both parties speak of deadlock. The head of the Syrian delegation said that the Israelis are not making a move toward a serious commitment regarding the point of withdrawal. He said that either the Israelis are not in a position to make a commitment on anything or the Israeli delegation is not authorized to do so. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf noted that when the delegations return to Washington, possibly in December, he hopes the atmosphere will be different because the Syrians have no intention of continuing to come to the negotiations without attaining results.

For his part, Professor Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation, also spoke of deadlock, but he said that the decision to end the talks was made in a mature manner and the aim is to find a way to make better progress tomorrow. Nevertheless, Prof. Rabinovich stressed that there is a clear asymmetry between the positions of both sides: Everybody knows what a withdrawal is, but the term—peace—is very vague, and the recent declarations we have been hearing from Damascus do not encourage us to believe that the Syrians mean to establish true peace with us.

Al-'Allaf Predicts Short Session for 19 Nov

JN1911064292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Washington—The seventh round of the Middle East peace talks is expected to close today in Washington. Sessions today will be followed by a joint press conference for the heads of the Arab delegations attending the talks in which they will assess the outcome of this round.

Following yesterday's session, Dr. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation, stated that Israel's attitudes violate the principles of peace that are based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

In statements to AFP last night, al-'Allaf explained that no progress was achieved at yesterday's session and that the Israelis have not changed their position a hair's breadth. He said: The Israeli delegation to the talks has been instructed by its government not to achieve any progress, and consequently, discussion was not serious.

He also pointed out that today's session will be short.

Al-'Allaf referred to the Israeli prime minister's recent statement to the French magazine LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR, saying: Rabin has set preconditions that shackle the peace process, while Syria has offered all commitments stipulated by Resolutions 242 and 338.

Al-'Allaf: No Compromise on Withdrawal

JN1811190292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Arab delegations to the Middle East peace talks held a meeting before the last session in the current seventh round of negotiations scheduled to conclude tomorrow after almost a month of talks, including a 10-day break for the U.S. elections.

Before the meeting, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said that the only thing that could give momentum to the talks in these last two days would be for Israel to accept the implementation of what should be implemented according to the bases of the peace process. This means implementing the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 242 relying on the land-for-peace equation. He added: As long as Israel is not willing to withdraw from the territories, there can be no peace.

Responding to a question on whether Syria is willing to compromise in terms of this equation, al-'Allaf said: You cannot bargain on what is a basic right under international law and the peace process itself. He added: Syria has offered many concessions for the sake of peace. It has also submitted a constructive document at the talks defining the bases for a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace, while Israel has still not responded to the very basic requirements of withdrawal from the territories it occupied illegitimately in 1967.

Answering a question on whether Syria's willingness to end the state of war with Israel means it is willing to stop transporting weapons to the Hizballah in southern Lebanon, al-'Allaf said: We did not get involved in the peace process to see how Syria can legitimize Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon. He added: The occupation is the cause of all that is taking place in southern Lebanon and the occupied Arab territories, with the end of occupation would come an end to these matters as well.

Al-'Allaf on Peace Talks, Clinton Administration

PM1811163392 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14-15 Nov 92 p 4

[Report on interview with Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace negotiations, by Farid al-Khatib in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpts] Ambassador Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace negotiations, has agreed with the Palestinian delegation's remark that "the Israeli delegation's intransigence increased" in the second part of the seventh round of negotiations following the U.S. presidential elections. He said: "It seems that Israel,

which believes that President-elect Clinton's administration could be closer to satisfying its ambitions or be biased toward it, is now seeking to mark time until the new administration takes over, when it (Israel) would be able to secure greater ambitions with U.S. support." He added: "But we Arabs do not want to believe what Israel says about the new U.S. Administration or make our judgement on the basis of Israel's view. We want to give it a chance to prove its seriousness and credibility. We also want to give President-elect Clinton a chance to prove what he said—that he is interested in the continuation of the peace process."

In a wide-ranging interview conducted by AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI with him at the ANA Hotel Muwaffaq al-'Allaf warned that the president-elect will not be able to guarantee the continuation of the peace process if he shows bias toward Israel. This is because the United States is an impartial sponsor and broker and a driving force. Clinton, as Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said following his election, cannot play the role of the peace process sponsor if he is biased toward Israel or if the new U.S. Administration changes the foundation of the peace process, which is based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of returning Arab land in exchange for peace." [passage omitted]

Al-'Allaf announced that an Arab meeting at foreign minister level will be held in Beirut after the conclusion of the current seventh round to deal with what happened during this round and the Arab positions during it. And "it will an occasion to discuss the Jordanian-Israeli (draft) agenda."

He said: "We did not understand much from the Jordanian-Israeli (draft) agenda as it was published by the press. And following consultations the Jordanian brothers are trying to introduce amendments to it to eliminate some of the ambiguity or clarify some matters. And we hope that when a certain document is agreed upon it will contain the Arab constants agreed upon." Asked about the issue of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, he said: "It could be among the amendments which Jordan will try to introduce." He emphasized that "all the Arab parties are committed against separate peace with Israel. And since this commitment is being honored and coordination is continuing, we should not pay much attention to matters whose details we do not know and which have not yet been finalized." He said: "What is important is for us to adhere to the comprehensiveness of a solution, not to allow Israel to single out any Arab party against another, not to give it the opportunity to stir up disunity or disagreement among the Arab parties, and not to exaggerate fears under the umbrella of the Arab commitment to comprehensiveness."

He listed the immutable principles of the Arab parties participating in the peace negotiations as "adherence to all the Arab rights and territories, the comprehensiveness of a solution, and complete withdrawal. I cannot imagine an Arab party agreeing to relinquish part of its occupied territory." He said that "noninterference in internal affairs is not one of the immutable principles" agreed by the parties to the peace negotiations. [sentence as published] [passage omitted]

He added that "President al-Asad and Syria are anxious that the peace process should not turn into futile meetings. This is because the talks are not an objective in themselves. The aim is to make progress and achieve a comprehensive, complete, and lasting peace in the region. In view of Israeli intransigence and the new Israeli Government's failure to prove its claim that it was different in essence from the (Yitzhaq) Shamir government and would take serious steps to advance the peace process—which, as we can see, has not been done—the president is bound to provide us with his instructions and orders with regard to the plan to be followed in order to confront those maneuvers and, if possible, direct the talks onto the right path." [passage omitted]

Answering a question on Syria's position on Palestinian rights, Al-'Allaf said: "The important things in the Syrian document which Israel regarded as the biggest obstacles are the Syrian document's insistence on withdrawal from all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip; the Palestinian people's rights, including the dismantling of (Israeli) settlements; and the refugees' rights, including the right to repatriation. This Syrian position has been the object of tough discussions (with the Israeli delegation) in many sessions during the rounds of peace negotiations."

Ambassador Muwaffaq al-'Allaf announced Syria's rejection of "Israel's withdrawal to secure and recognized borders, because secure and recognized borders cannot be achieved except by Israel's withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders." [passage omitted]

He said: "If Israel withdraws from all the occupied Arab territories, the Arab parties will be able to end the state of war claim, as Resolution 242 says, and a state of peace would be established, allowing all the region's states, not just Israel, to live in peace within secure and recognized borders."

But "Israel is demanding more than that. And we refuse to get into discussing the nature of peace and the type of (bilateral) relations, because they are matters related to the national sovereignty of each party and cannot be imposed by a decree or decision. They happen spontaneously with the passage of time if there is an atmosphere of confidence and assurance that hostility no longer exists. This is why we insist that Israel withdraw completely from all the occupied Arab territories so that we can end the state of war and sign a peace agreement with it."

Jordanian Spokesman on Draft Agenda With Israel

JN1911081192 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Prior to the end of the seventh round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington, our correspondent there met with Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, the spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, and conducted the following interview with him on the last sessions of the seventh round of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Dr. al-Mu'ashshir, in this round of talks we have felt that there is something missing in the Jordanian statements, particularly during the last week. What happened in this period?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] In fact, after the return of the Israeli delegation last week, we presented some remarks on the draft agenda to the Israeli side and we are still waiting for an official reply to these remarks. In the meantime, we held some unofficial meetings, as we did in the past, in order to explore positions on the subjects of water, energy, and environment.

[Correspondent] Before the interval in this round as a result of the U.S. elections, expectations were that an agreement on a joint agenda between the Jordanian and Israeli delegations was near. Some press organs published parts of this agenda. Why then the delay in announcing the agenda?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] The reason is clear. It is that we have not reached an agreement yet. What has been published was a draft agreement, which was presented to the Jordanian and Israeli Governments for approval. At the press conference I held before the end of the first phase of the round, I was clear when I said that this is not an agreed-on agenda, that we have remarks on the draft, and we are waiting for the official approval. When the negotiations resumed, the government had some remarks to make and we presented them to the Israeli side. Therefore, we have not reached a full agreement on an agenda, although there is an agreement on its main principles.

[Correspondent] Dr. al-Mu'ashshir, some Arab quarters have expressed their concern about some clauses in the Jordanian-Israeli draft agenda. Through your discussions with the other delegations, what are the reactions on the agenda's content?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] In fact, we have discussed the agenda with various Arab parties and we are fully confident and satisfied that the Arab parties have no reservations on this agenda, and it has been agreed on in all its clauses. I would like to recall that this is still, as I said, an agenda and not an agreement on any issues between the Jordanian and Israeli sides. Therefore, this is no more than a framework for the negotiation process and not an agreement on any subject.

[Correspondent] Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, only one day is left before the seventh round of talks concludes. Do you expect an agreement on the agenda by the end of the round?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] In fact, this depends on the Israeli side's reply, which we have not yet received, and it is difficult to judge whether we will be able to reach agreement or not.

[Correspondent] Have the other Arab delegations conveyed to you news about progress on any other track?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] In fact, I prefer that this question be directed to the Arab delegations themselves, though the general feeling is that there has been no substantial progress on all tracks during this round. There is general resentment toward the Israeli side because we do not feel that any real progress has been made in this round.

[Correspondent] Dr. al-Mu'ashshir, it has been said in press circles here that the delegations are trying to delay reaching any substantial agreements until U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton assumes power on 20 January. Is there a feeling that no progress can be achieved in this stage?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] I do not think that this is true. It is in the interests of all parties to make progress. At no time has any Arab party deliberately delayed the negotiations in any way.

[Correspondent] Dr. al-Mu'ashshir, thank you for this interview. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the Syrian and Israeli delegations to the Middle East bilateral peace talks ended their negotiations in Washington last night one hour earlier than scheduled because of disagreement over the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including the Syrian Golan Heights.

While leaving the U.S. State Department building, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said that no progress was achieved with the Israeli teams. He added that the negotiations were not serious and said he believed that the Israeli delegation has received instructions from his government to prevent achieving progress in this respect.

Lebanon's Sukayr Comments on End of Seventh Round

NC1911070792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] The seventh round of bilateral negotiations between Lebanon and Israel will end today. No worthwhile progress was made at yesterday's session since Israel confirmed that it will not withdraw from the south and that it does not want to implement Resolution 425, and insisted on involving military officials in the negotiations.

Ambassador Suheyl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, said he asked for detailed clarifications about every clause in this Israeli proposal. He reiterated Lebanon's stand that calls for dealing with the notion of military experts within a political framework, adding that the proper place for these experts' work is the general session of the negotiations after agreement on how to establish the experts' teams and define their course of action and their objectives.

Asked whether Lebanon is not willing to discuss the inclusion of military experts in the general meeting until Israel commits itself to withdraw from the south, Shammas replied: Let us say that what is required from the talks is that they should have an objective. They should have an interim objective. He stressed that Lebanon is not willing to embark on talks that appear aimed at strengthening and maintaining the security area set up by Israel in the occupied border strip. He reiterated that Lebanon wants an Israeli withdrawal and that it needs this withdrawal, adding that bringing this about will be an achievement not only in the Lebanese-Israeli track but in all the tracks.

'Arafat Adviser Sha'th Discusses Peace Talks

NC1711090892 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian president 'Arafat, in Washington, by Ramadan Hamiya, in Cairo, during the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Hamiya] After the resumption of the seventh round of bilateral talks, let me ask you in general if there has been progress on the Israeli-Palestinian course.

[Sha'th] There is very limited progress concerning Israel's readiness to discuss issues which it always has tried to put aside. This readiness to negotiate, however, does not mean that progress has been made in the negotiations process itself. Some examples of this are the issues of settlement, land, distribution and administration of the land, and Jerusalem. The Israeli side had refused even more negotiations on these very important issues, the formation of committees to negotiate on these issues, and the holding of formal or informal meetings to discuss these issues.

The Israeli side now is willing to talk about these issues, but this does not mean that it has acknowledged our just and legitimate demands about them, which rely on Resolution 242, international legitimacy, and our indisputable right.

Thus, I note that progress was made on entering into these *dar'ah*, but there is excessive Israeli intransigence on the essence of the issue and on genuine progress toward transferring full authority to the Palestinian people in the transitional stage.

[Hamiya] What will you discuss with the Israeli delegation in the remaining few days?

[Sha'th] We will continue discussion on these issues. We will continue the detailed discussion on the powers of the transitional stage, particularly full legislative powers for the Palestinian people during this period. We will continue discussion on the geographical authority [al-wilayah al-jughrafiyah]—that is, the interim Palestinian government's right to control all the Palestinian land occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, and to dispose of all the Palestinian territories in this region. This, in turn, will open the door to discussion of Jerusalem, as it always has been one of the Palestinian negotiator's basic focal points. We cannot reach agreement excluding Jerusalem, because Jerusalem is a trust in the hands of the Palestinian people, or rather the entire Arab and Islamic nation, not just the Palestinians.

[Hamiya] During his visit to Cairo, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres announced that the Israeli side proposed the holding of political, not municipal, elections and the implementation of a partial solution based on the Camp David accords. What is your comment?

[Sha'th] The Israeli shift from municipal to central and general elections undoubtedly is important progress. This actually took place when the Israeli side presented its new paper after Rabin took office on 23 August. This proposal was made at the beginning of talks after the end of Shamir's rule.

But we actually are speaking about the important details which make these elections significant, such as who we should elect, what kind of legislative council will emerge from these elections, and what its jurisdictions will be. The mere ordering of general elections is not enough. The outcome of these elections must be specified—in other words, the kinds of powers those elected will have and whether they truly will have the right to represent their people, to enact legislation, and control the executive bodies. These are the topics of current discussion.

[Hamiya] The Palestinian intifadah recently escalated. Do you believe this escalation is due to the lack of tangible, substantial progress in the Palestinian-Israeli bilateral negotiations?

[Sha'th] The escalation of the intifadah undoubtedly is linked to two issues: a central, permanent issue and a temporary issue.

The permanent issue is that no nation can obtain its right—especially in the face of an iniquitous, repressive, and colonial occupation such as the Israeli occupation—without continuous resistance and complete rejection of this occupation. The intifadah is the practical embodiment of the Palestinian people's rejection of occupation. It is this rejection of occupation which makes these negotiations important, because progress in the negotiations would have been inconceivable if Israel, the United States, and the world had not felt that the Palestinian

people would not accept a substitute [word indistinct] the continuation of occupation. [sentence as heard] This is a standing issue.

Of course, the current issue is that the Palestinian people feel that after a year of negotiations, the Israeli side has not yet proposed what we may regard as the minimal level of applying Resolutions 242, or genuine progress toward Palestinian independence, the Israeli withdrawal, and applying [words indistinct] the transitional stage. Therefore, the Palestinian people remind this occupation authority that we will not accept what is imposed on us, that we will not surrender, and that we will continue all forms of struggle—political struggle and resistance on the ground—until we obtain our rights.

[Hunayn] Has a date been fixed for an eighth round of talks?

[Sha'th] The period 7-23 December has been proposed but not agreed to. It first must be approved on the Palestinian level by the PLO Executive Committee and then discussed at the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Beirut on 25 November. Only then can we say whether we have agreed on the date. The United States has proposed the date and preliminary discussion on it has been held, but a final agreement has not yet been reached.

[Hunayn] Since you mentioned the Arab foreign ministers meeting, let me ask about the extent of coordination among the Arab delegations in this respect.

[Sha'th] Coordination has been taking place here in Washington. We meet daily and the delegations' representatives also meet daily to review the discussions during negotiations and preview what will happen in the coming days. The delegation heads meet every week. They hold private meetings at the beginning and end of each round. Indeed, there is close contact and continuous coordination among the delegations here. But I say sincerely that this is not enough. What also is important is to have continuous coordination among our countries and leaders, not just on daily events, but on reaching an understanding on an overall strategy.? This should take place not only among the countries that are actually engaged in negotiations, but also should cover a larger number of Arab countries whose interests are linked with what happens in these negotiations. We are negotiating not only over Palestinian and Arab occupied land, but over the future of all Arabs and on important parts of this homeland such as Jerusalem, which enjoys particular importance. Coordination truly is required among all parties to achieve the comprehensive pan-Arab interest.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Warns of Possible Withdrawal From Talks

PM191111092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Nov 92 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Warning From 'Arafat: Palestinian Situation Slipping Out of My Hands; Either Progress in Negotiations Or Withdrawal Or Resignation"]

[Text] London, Political Studies Center, exclusive to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A senior Palestinian source has revealed that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo a few days ago was aimed at informing Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that, in view of the failure to achieve anything significant on the Palestinian track in the Middle East talks, matters have begun to slip out of his hands, and that he could find himself compelled to withdraw from the peace process as a whole if matters stay as they are.

The source, who asked to remain anonymous, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that 'Arafat is now in an uncomfortable situation; that, in view of the deadlock in the situation on the Palestinian track, he has started to lean more toward hardliners in the Palestinian leadership; and that, if no tangible progress takes place at the negotiations level, he could call for a Palestinian popular conference or a new national council and announce either his resignation or the PLO's withdrawal from the peace process.

According to the source, 'Arafat told the Egyptian president that the Palestinian leadership at the level of the Executive Committee and leaders of all the factions would hold a meeting in Tunis on 21 November and that it would take its final decision after studying all aspects of the situation and after conducting further consultations and contacts at the Arab and European level.

The same source said that President Mubarak dealt with what 'Arafat said with extreme interest and that he speedily sent former Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil, who is one of his most important advisers on Israeli affairs, to Israel to that end and to make efforts with Israeli officials to ease military tension in southern Lebanon.

The source said that President Mubarak and Egyptian officials discussed 'Arafat's "warning" with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who seems to be carrying an Israeli view which the Israelis conveyed earlier to Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the proposed autonomy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

This Israeli view says that there is no major disagreement with regard to the Gaza Strip and implementation of the proposed autonomy. As for the West Bank, it can be divided into three parts: one whose control by the Palestinians is not subject to discussion, one whose control by the Israelis is not subject to discussion, and one subject to discussion at future negotiations.

It is worth noting that Israel had informed Egypt officially that the proposed self-administrative rule council in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip would comprise 54 members, provided they choose from among themselves an executive council comprising no more than 15 members.

According to this Israeli view, the area of the part for control by the Palestinian autonomy is represented by municipal boundaries and some of the lands adjoining them, provided that the overall area does not exceed 32 percent of the area

of the West Bank, while the remaining area is to be distributed equally between what is subject to discussion in the future and what is allocated to Israeli military and security purposes, in addition to the area of the settlements, which, according to Israeli estimates, does not exceed 6 percent of the West Bank.

With regard to the holy city, the Israeli view still maintains the previous position. Information has been leaked by Tel Aviv about an agreement between Israel and the Vatican that sovereignty over Jerusalem should be for Israel and that the holy Christian places should belong religiously to the Vatican State—something which no one can imagine the Arab negotiator accepting in any way.

Hamas Spokesman on Self-Rule, PLO, Intifadah

NC1811131192 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 30 Oct 92 p 13

["Text" of interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, originally published by FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in London "in its latest issue," by an unidentified correspondent—date, place not given]

[Text] [FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Does Hamas refuse to participate in administrative rule elections because they are designed to choose a purely administrative council? Will you participate in the elections if they become legislative elections? What would make you decide to participate?

[Ghawshah] Before I answer specifically, I would like to clarify Hamas' position on the election process as a measure and mechanism by which the people express themselves and choose their representatives. Hamas' position is already decided and well-known and was demonstrated in all union, university, chamber of commerce, and other elections. Over two years ago, Hamas proposed holding legislative elections for the Palestine National Council provided that they were fair and kept separate from any political plan that contravened the Palestinian people's constants. Following consultations involving officials of all levels in the movement, Hamas adopted a clear and definite position on the so-called self-government (both administrative and legislative). It emphatically rejected it for the following two reasons:

A question of principle: Any self-government elections linked to the settlement plan on the basis of which the Madrid Conference was held (Bush's 6 March plan, Baker's suggestions during his eight shuttle tours, and the letter of invitation addressed by conference sponsors Bush and Gorbachev) recognize the Zionist entity and concede at least 78 percent of Palestinian territory. We declare that such elections, whether administrative or legislative, are unacceptable as a matter of principle (consult Hamas Charter Articles 11 and 13; the Muslim Brotherhood general guide's statement; and the shari'ah ruling issued by 20 Jordanian and Palestinian shari'ah scholars and doctorate holders in August 1992).

The political-national question: This consideration focuses on the political and national context of self-government. The conclusion drawn is that the U.S.-Zionist plan does not satisfy any sovereignty or independence requirement, notably self-determination and the right of return after liberation. It is limited to self-government for the residents only and leaves security, foreign affairs, and settlements under the jurisdiction of the Zionist occupation. It leaves Jerusalem and natural resources, including water resources, outside the plan. It also leaves the door wide open for Jewish immigration from the former USSR (1 million immigrants in three years) financed by the United States and Europe ($10 billion from the United States and an expected $3 billion from Germany).

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] How will Hamas respond to the current path of the PLO leadership, which led things to this point? Is there a Hamas strategy on this?

[Ghawshah] Let us first focus on the path of the PLO leadership. We can see the following:

Internal psychological and moral retreat, which has led to successive concessions, peaking in the current negotiations in Washington. The PLO leadership has renounced most of the prerequisites of steadfastness, jihad, patience, and endurance. This retreat began early in the 1970's after the siege of Beirut, showed later in the recognition of the Zionist entity after the 19th Palestine National Council [PNC] session, and finally in the decision made at the 20th PNC session to participate in the Madrid conference.

The subjection of legitimate Palestinian institutions, particularly the PNC and the PLO Central Council, to individual administration and hegemony, either in the formation of these institutions, through appointment and selection, or the extraction of the desired decisions from these institutions amid calculated opposition and sick democracy.

The overstepping of effective Palestinian forces, inside or outside the PLO.

The opening of secret channels with the Jews, the United States, and some Western states, through mediation by personal ambassadors and advisers and according to their advice.

The Hamas movement confronted this course with several means and based on a clear strategy—maintaining national unity, adopting the method of dialogue with everyone, abiding by the constants of the Palestinian people and Islamic principles, giving advice, educating the people, and explaining the political positions frankly and clearly at historical moments. The most important methods of dealing with this course are:

Exposing and refuting its validity to the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic public by every available means.

Establishing broad frameworks of Palestinian forces struggling in the Palestinian arena at home and abroad to serve as pressure centers against this course and formulating statements, positions, and political programs to achieve this.

Confronting this course by every popular means, including statements, speeches, festivals, strikes, demonstrations, and so on within a nonviolent democratic framework.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Clearly, the intifadah, at least in its popular form, must stop with the implementation of administrative rule [al-hukm al-dhati], because Army forces will withdraw from the Palestinian residential areas. What do you think of this? How do you view this situation? And can the intifadah continue in the form of isolated protests?

[Ghawshah] I do not subscribe to the opinion that the intifadah in its popular form must stop with the start of the administrative rule. I prefer us to look at issues realistically. The intifadah's mass appeal has declined for many reasons and even before the self-rule idea was proposed. We cannot discuss this issue in the framework you suggest. No political analyst of the intifadah can ignore the intifadah's mass appeal or history. The intifadah showed following the Madrid conference and support for it was confined to specific groups, because of a secret decision to stop the intifadah. Those who so decided hoped that in time the intifadah would run out of steam and grind to a halt.

Certain statements have been made that have a bearing on this. In Madrid, Yitzhaq Shamir called for ending the intifadah. Former Israeli military intelligence chief Gazit set out conditions for the self-rule elections, calling for some calm to be restored. Others declared that the top priorities of the self-rule authority during the interim phase should be to suppress hardline Palestinian organizations that oppose self-rule.

But the intifadah has become an integral part of the daily life of the struggling people in the West Bank and Gaza. Like a river, the intifadah sometimes runs low. Sometimes it overflows and breaks its banks. As long as barbarism and Zionist arrogance exist—and these will increase if a peace settlement is reached, God forbid—the intifadah river will run high with anger and rancor and the martyrdom operations will continue.

The withdrawal of the Zionist Army forces will be hesitant. The Army will withdraw from cities, camps, and villages to points outside them. The Army will remain the symbol of occupation on the sacred land of Palestine. Popular intifadah activities such as strikes, demonstrations, and slogans will continue. Jihad operations against the Zionist enemy even from residential areas will remain viable.

The basic burden of the intifadah lies with the young, the throbbing heart of the Palestinian people. They are not weighed down by reluctance and they are not tempted by deals and gains that appeal to those opportunists who opt for self-rule and who hope to see the intifadah dead.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] How do you see the relationship between your movement and the Palestinian administration that will probably be a Fatah administration? Will the sensitivity and repulsion continue? Do you expect acts of repression against you? What are your views on this?

[Ghawshah] Despite the Madrid conference's extensive efforts to prepare the Palestinian public inside and outside the occupied territories to accept self-rule and halt the intifadah, things will not be that simple. The Palestinian people are resolute, full of faith and enduring. An Islamic Palestinian and patriotic force exists that will not let self-rule pass or allow the holding of self-rule elections as they are planned. The Palestinian people who have been struggling for 75 years will not suddenly accept stopping their jihad, signing away Palestine's land, and handing over Jerusalem and al-Aqsa Mosque. I believe that many in the Fatah ranks and many among its patriotic leaders refuse to play such a role. This is why the Palestinian administration will be backed by agents. It will be very similar to the village leagues [rural administrative bodies in the West Bank]. On acts of repression, the Madrid group began carrying them out on the eve of the Madrid conference. They reached their peak in recent events in Gaza against Hamas and other nonrejectionist factions. I expect such acts of repression to increase with U.S. excitement and open backing from the Zionist occupation forces. This Palestinian administration will be unable to challenge the Palestinian people's will and their wish to cling to all their rights, land, and sanctities. No power on earth can stop the progress of jihad, particularly against the Zionist enemy. Jihad will continue until Judgment day. Verily God will defend those who believe. [Koranic verse]

Economic Pressure Urged To Change Clinton's Stance

TA0711183092 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 17 Nov 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "A Reading of Clinton's Position on the Palestinian Problem"]

[Text] U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton did not leave any time in declaring America's commitment to the peace talks between the Arabs and Israel. Moreover, he was very keen that the current administration continue its activity in advancing the peace process, even if it included a new tour by secretary James Baker to the Middle East. Clinton's wishes in this regard have one stopping—namely, that neither he nor his new administration want to tackle the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is not one of his priorities, as he wants to devote most of his effort to addressing the deteriorating U.S. economy.

On the other hand, Clinton is totally committed to supporting Israel, not only due to political considerations but because he sympathizes with Israel and its people for "deep-rooted religious reasons" as he often said frankly during his election campaign.

Hence, even after Clinton assumes power, one should not expect that either he or his administration will play an active role to advance the peace process. Undoubtedly Clinton, as president of the only superpower in the world, and America as sponsor of the peace conference, cannot relinquish their responsibility toward this region of the world. Clinton's interest, however, will not exceed statements about his support for the talks and about the need to achieve peace in this region.

Clinton's anticipated lack of interest means that the Arab parties will find themselves confronting Israel and its hardline positions. They will face two options, both of which are bitter: Either continue the talks and reach settlements that might be less than the required minimum, or withdraw from the talks and leave the stalled peace process for another time. Both ways mean "capitulation and defeat."

The question is: Has the Arab nation lost its numerous weapons that enable it to make the Arab body immune? What is required is to rearrange the Arab home on clear and militant foundations, relying on our own power.

Closing the Arab ranks and mobilizing the huge Arab potential in the service of our Arab masses' aspirations for unity and freedom is the only way that will force Clinton and others to reassess their calculations. At that time they will realize that they cannot remove the Arab nation and the crucial Palestinian problem from the international arena by minimizing the problem. Therefore, Arab solidarity is the effective weapon in confronting the challenges. Without this unity, our Arab nation will remain exposed to conspiracies, and its wealth and resources will continue to be eyed by those who covet them.

Until this is realized, Israel's interests, security, and wishes will be a top priority of U.S. policy. But when the Arabs—all the Arabs—begin talking about withdrawing their huge deposits and U.S. treasury bonds from Uncle Sam's country, only then will America realize where its interests lie. Only then will Washington be persuaded that the Arabs are not marginal figures and that they can threaten with oil, trade, and markets. Then the Americans, foremost of all Clinton, will return to their senses and will begin to shoulder their responsibility. A fundamental and comprehensive change will occur in U.S. policy, the issues of the region will get top priority, and America will begin to adopt more balanced stances in the Arab-Israeli talks.

If the Arabs wish to protect their security and impose their will, they have no option but to build an Arab bloc that reflects and epitomizes this nation's real weight. The spirit of pan-Arab unity and solidarity is the only answer to the immense challenges. Only when we stand free, united, and powerful will Clinton and the world take us seriously and actually listen. Clinton will then know that the hour of settling accounts is inevitable.

Egypt

Mubarak Request for Rabin-'Arafat Meeting Rejected

JN1811182492 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Israel has rejected an Egyptian request to hold a meeting between Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Informed diplomatic sources told our radio that in a letter sent to Rabin recently and delivered by Mustafa Khalil, deputy leader of the ruling Egyptian National Democratic Party, the Egyptian president urged the Israeli prime minister to hold such a meeting.

In his letter, Mubarak asserted that the meeting would be aimed at discussing all principles pertaining to the transitional phase of autonomy, its arrangements, and an agreement in principle on the final status of the occupied territories. Mubarak stressed the need for additional, side meetings between Palestinian and Israeli officials to discuss points that might not be threshed out during the Rabin-'Arafat meeting. In his letter, Mubarak said that this meeting will contribute toward removing many obstacles that hinder the path of Palestinian-Israeli peace. He also noted the need for preparing new, joint ideas which emphasize the nature of the transitional phase and the possibility of the Arab-Israeli talks contributing to an agreement on the features of the (?picture) of a comprehensive and permanent solution in the region.

Mubarak Comments on 'Scurrilous' Iranian Attacks

NC1911092792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that the conflict in the Middle East can be solved only through peace talks. In a statement to reporters before leaving for Paris today, he said: We will reach a solution through negotiations now that it has been proven to the world that wars cannot solve anything. He said that the talks might be difficult and complicated but the only way to reach a solution is through determination to continue them. He emphasized that withdrawal from the negotiations would indicate a lack of self-control. He said he does not believe that any Arab country is contemplating withdrawing from the negotiations, noting that "all the parties are determined to negotiate before world public opinion."

In response to a question on his warning to Iran against supporting terrorism and trying to export it to the region's countries, including Egypt, which prompted Iran to blatantly assail the Arab regimes and prompted Iranian leader Khamenei to berate him in a way not befitting the code of dialogue and traditions, President Mubarak said: This is a regrettable and painful matter. When I first heard it I was told the attack was made by Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. I could not picture Rafsanjani speaking in this mean and scurrilous way. It turned out that the remarks reported by news agencies from Iran were made by religious Imam 'Ali Khamenei. I am extremely sad and regretful that such remarks were made by the highest Islamic leader in Iran, who used vile and scurrilous terms that only vulgar people use.

President Mubarak expressed his regret that such slander was made by 'Ali Khamenei and addressed him, saying: "O Muslim, religion exhorts virtue and right, and there is nothing in religion that calls for slander and scurrilous language." Mubarak added: "I will not respond to him with scurrilous terms, but will leave him to his people." He pointed out that Egypt's positive, strong, and influential role in the region exposes it to such attacks. He said that political dialogue is possible, but anyone using slander is bankrupt.

Responding to a question on the exaggeration of extremist operations and its effect on tourism, President Mubarak said that Egypt constantly has been the target of campaigns in view of its pioneering role in the region. Egypt will come under attack from all directions; "this is our fate." He said that had it not been for Egypt's positive and pioneering role, we would not have been targeted by campaigns. Being the influential power in the region makes Egypt a target for such attacks.

Responding to a question on reports that Moroccan King Hassan II will call for an Arab summit to confront the Iranian threats to the Arab countries and that he will attend this summit, President Mubarak said: I cannot comment on something I know nothing about and which was never submitted to me. He said that any Arab summit in the circumstances we are passing through would require a lot of preparation. He said that since the Gulf war it has not been easy to convene an Arab summit attended by all the Arab leaders. He added that King Hassan did not mention this issue during their recent meeting in Cairo. He said these are just ideas and speculation by news agencies.

Answering a question on the issues he will discuss with French President Mitterrand during his visit to Paris, President Mubarak said that his talks with Mitterrand always deal with the situation in the region, particularly the Middle East issue. They also will discuss bilateral relations between Egypt and France, which he said are "fine and excellent," as well as the situation in the Mediterranean.

Iran's 'Oppressive Dictatorial Regime' Denounced

NC1811151792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 18 Nov 92

['Atif 'Umar commentary: "They Are Not Iranian Embassies; They are Dens for Spying and Centers for Terrorism"]

[Text] The misleading media campaign launched by the Iranian regime against Egypt was neither strange nor surprising. The campaign was launched after President Mubarak exposed the regime's aims and its serious activities against the Arab and Islamic nation, activities designed to impose Persian hegemony over the Arab Gulf area and, by extension, the Arab and Islamic world. The eight-year Iran-Iraq war reveals the true intentions of the Iranian and Iraqi rulers. Both were seeking to impose their hegemony and domination over the region.

Throughout these years of war, the Iranian and Iraqi peoples paid a heavy price after being forced to fight to fulfill their rulers' ambitions and schemes to dominate the entire region. The Iraqi regime has paid the price for its ambitions in the form of political isolation among its Arab brothers and the economic blockade from which the Iraqi people have been suffering. The Iranian regime is awaiting the same fate, particularly because the Iranian people are waiting for the hour to settle their accounts with their rulers, who have inflicted on them the worst types of oppression and persecution. The millions of Iranians forced to flee their country for fear of persecution and oppression share with their brothers in Iran the same aspirations and hopes for the establishment of a democratic regime to replace the oppressive dictatorial regime ruling the fraternal Iranian people.

We affirm that Iran's hostile activities have become exposed following several Arab and Islamic capitals' revelations of terrorist plans disguised behind misleading religious slogans by the Iranian propaganda media. This is evident in the Algerian Government's call on the Iranian regime to reduce the number of its representatives in Algiers. The government made this demand after discovering that the Iranian Embassy is a den of spies and a dangerous center for subversive activity in the region. In addition, it was involved in the smuggling of weapons and tools of murder. The Algerian Government uncovered this truth.

Consequently, the warning President Mubarak sent the Iranian regime—which came after much patience with a regime that only deals in the dark and through the methods of gangs and plotting against states and peoples—acted as a spark for all the feelings of rancor and anger the Iranian regime harbors for Egypt and its leadership. However, history can testify that Egypt has never been involved in aggression against anyone for the sake of political hegemony or an oil well. History can also testify that Egypt has never hid behind religious slogans or used it to oppress its people or attack the rights of others. The facts show that Egypt has backed all its brothers and has always supported Arab rights and legitimacy. Egypt's position toward the Iraqi dictator when he attacked Kuwait is the best proof of this claim. Due to its firm values and principles, Egypt rejects all types of aggression, contrary to the Iranian regime, which is marked by its armed aggression against United Arab Emirates and its occupation of its three islands: namely Abu Musa, Tunb al-Sughra, and Tunb al-Kubra. Egypt's rejection of such aggressive Iranian actions proves that Egypt speaks one language and rejects all types of aggression and terrorism, regardless of the source.

In conclusion, we must say one last word: Iran's and Iraq's actions against the Iranian and Iraqi peoples and the international terrorist operations planned by these regimes have greatly harmed the reputation of the Muslims and Islam. The Arab and Islamic world must work to exonerate Islam and the Muslims of the charges of terrorism, which have been leveled against us because of the dictatorial regimes' actions and ambitions against the Arab and Islamic states.

Sudan Accused of Backing 'Terrorists'

NC1811141992

[Editorial Report] Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic on 14 November publishes on pages 1 and 8 an approximately 2,500-word article entitled "Issue That Does Not Tolerate Joking" by the paper's Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah. The writer comments on attacks on tourists in Egypt and accuses Sudan of supporting the "terrorists" in the country.

The writer maintains that the confrontation in Egypt is not between the security forces and the extremists, but "is a battle between the mercenary killers and the present and future of the entire Egyptian people." He says: "The juveniles who carry weapons and lie in wait for tourist convoys to fire indiscriminately on foreigners and their Egyptian escorts are merely puppets moved by foreign sources to undermine Egypt's security and drown its people in a sea of poverty, backwardness, and dark ages."

Sa'dah then refers to the 12 November statement by Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and agriculture minister, in which he accused Iran of trying to undermine stability in Egypt by giving extremists money and weapons and setting up training camps for them on the border of "some fraternal neighboring states."

Noting that Egypt's neighbors are Israel, Libya, and Sudan, the writer rules out Israel and Libya as the countries the deputy prime minister meant. He says there is open hostility between Israel and Iran and that Egyptian-Libyan relations are now in their best shape.

"The Sudan story," Sa'dah writes, "is different. He continues: "A review of developments in Egyptian-Sudanese relations since the launch of the 'Islamic revolution' in Khartoum would confirm beyond any doubt that the Sudanese regime has no concern but to harm the big sister, Egypt, for known and unknown reasons." He contends that the Sudanese regime's "hatred" is not confined to Egypt, but extends to all other Arab countries, except the Iraqi regime.

The writer elaborates on this "hatred" toward Egypt, noting: "It was the first country to attack Egypt for rejecting the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and for

agreeing to its troops joining the war to liberate fraternal Kuwait." He adds that when Sudan's anti-Egyptian rhetoric and incitements failed to shake stability in Egypt and overthrow the Egyptian regime, Sudan began a series of "provocations" against the country, but only to retreat at the end of each provocation. "When the terrorists fell, one group after another, their confessions proved that the Sudanese regime is involved in financing, planning, and implementing the terrorist operations that targeted Egypt's security and stability."

Sa'dah adds: "Sudanese provocations did not stop. Suddenly the Sudanese regime decided to seize a piece of Egyptian territory on the pretext that it lies inside the Sudanese border. It said Egypt should immediately pull the Egyptians out of the region! But Egypt did not allow 'joking' about an issue concerning Egyptian soil. The Egyptian response, as is usually the case with major issues, was strong, firm, and decisive."

The writer concludes: "This series of related provocations leads us to believe that Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Wali, in his statement in Aswan on Thursday, meant the Sudanese regime." He adds: "If this is true and it becomes certain the Sudanese regime is indeed the country that sold the Sudanese people's sovereignty by letting the Iranians build terrorist camps on Sudanese territory, the issue goes beyond 'provocation.' It leaves no room for jokes in facing and confronting it."

Sa'dah notes that terrorist activity in Egypt has recently intensified, angering all the Egyptian people. He maintains that the attacks on tourists have indeed affected tourism in the country. "More package tours have been canceled than during the Gulf war. Even when everybody was discussing the war, Egyptian tourism did not suffer as it is suffering today by the series of attacks against tourists in upper Egypt. Anything the tourism minister says or does to convince international tour organizers that the attacks will not be repeated evaporates with attacks being repeated almost weekly and in various cities."

Tourism Minister Urges Standing Up to Criminals

NC1811165792 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 14 Nov 92 p 10

[Interview with Tourism Minister Fu'ad Sultan by Samir Tawfiq; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Tawfiq] What is the real condition of tourism following the recent incidents in upper Egypt?

[Sultan] I travelled to Germany and France immediately after these incidents took place. I am travelling to England the day after tomorrow. The purpose is participation in seminars and meetings with tour organizers and tourist companies. I simply convince them that we should not talk about terrorism. This has become a global phenomenon. [passage omitted]

When we speak of terrorism, I do not say this is religious terrorism; if religious extremism turns into terrorism and assassinations it has nothing to do with religion. None of the divine religions allow this. All Egyptian religious establishments and institutes have condemned terrorism and Islam's scholars have issued statements denouncing terrorism and calling these people blasphemous. [passage omitted]

Some of these groups believed in communist principles and suddenly they moved to the extreme right. They know nothing about religion, but have cloaked themselves in the robe of religion to attract simple people.

[Tawfiq] Is that what you told the foreigners during the discussion?

[Sultan] I can say they are saboteurs. I do not call anyone who dons the robes of religion an extremist. He is either deceived, a tendentious person, has local political objectives, or is financed by foreign circles and has no objective but to damage Egypt's economy and involve our country in the ethnic disputes of nearby regions. This is why I believe terrorism and extremism here have nothing to do with real terrorism. A religious extremist is religiously committed and can never use the tools of terrorism to impose his views; he uses them if he has a political objective. We are holding a dialogue with foreigners in our meetings and seminars. Some say that knowing these people, why don't we arrest them, taking stringent security measures? I reiterate that we are a democratic state that established the principles of democracy years ago. Democracy requires us to uphold the law; we cannot arrest people on mere suspicion. This does not mean we are leaving those saboteurs to wreak havoc. No. When these people go beyond the law, we arrest them, refer them to the prosecution office, and try them. [passage omitted]

[Tawfiq] What about the renewed extremist incidents, especially in Qina the day before yesterday?

[Sultan] People will not believe what I say if these incidents and attacks are repeated. The Egyptian people are interested and the entire Egyptian economy depends on tourism. Do you know that one in every 15 jobs in Egypt depends on tourism? [passage omitted]

Damaging tourism will not affect state taxes alone; it will affect the people's livelihood. I want the picture to be clear to everyone so that they can stand up to these extremists or criminals, because the people are the ultimate victim. The government should not face these saboteurs alone; everyone should report those who are working to damage their livelihood.

Ministry Gives Tourist Groups Extra Security

NC1811192092 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Nov 92 p 1

[Report by 'Imad Khayrah and 'Abd-al-Hah Muhammad from Qina]

[Text] The Interior Ministry has started implementing strict security plans to secure the safe arrival of tourists to historic sites in Upper Egypt. Tourist groups will be accompanied by a police officer and a group of armed intelligence agents to ensure their safety. The railway administration department is also securing trains from Cairo to Aswan.

Qina Governor Major General Yahya al-Bahnasawi has confirmed that all historic sites are open to tourists. He also said that tourist groups are being provided with extra security.

In statements to AL-WAFD, the Qina governor noted that terrorists are creating trouble outside Qina. Major General 'Izzat al-Shishani, director of the Qina security department, has said that security measures are available for all tourists, adding that after arresting the terrorists of the bus incident, the Governorate of Qina has become clear and safe of any terrorist acts.

The German tourists described what happened to them as an individual incident that does not justify concern over Egypt's tourism. The German tourists insisted they will continue their tour without any concern.

Prosecution Seeks Maximum Sentence for Terrorists

NC1811184992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Alexandria, 18 Nov (MENA)—During a closed session today, the Supreme Military Court in Alexandria, which is trying 26 members of terrorist organizations from the al-Jihad Organization, Hizballah, and the World Islamic Movement, decided to adjourn the trial until next Sunday, when it will hear the defense plea.

The military prosecution explained during the session, which was held under Presiding Judge Major General Ahmad 'Abdallah, Major General 'Ali Hamush, and Colonel Fayzi Haybah, that the defendants received military training to carry out terrorist operations in special camps in Afghanistan. The prosecution called for the maximum sentence against the defendants, according to the law. The maximum ranges between death and life and less than life in prison at hard labor.

The Supreme Military Court in Alexandria began hearing the case on 31 October, when the military prosecution leveled several charges against the defendants, including using terrorism as a means to suspend the provisions of the Constitution and the laws, undermining social peace, assassinating officials, forging official documents, and forging the Defense Ministry's seal to carry out their terrorist plans.

Mubarak Leaves for 2-Day Visit to France

NC1911073892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak left Cairo for Paris this morning on a two-day visit to France. During his visit, he will hold talks with French President Francois Mitterrand on issues relating to the Middle East and bilateral relations. Mubarak is scheduled to leave Paris for Dakar tomorrow to attend the summit of the group of 15 due to open there the day after tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Minister Interviewed on U.S. Aid, Reducing Debts

NC1311154392 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 8 Nov 92 p 4

[Interview with Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, by Raja' 'Abd-al-Malik; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] ['Abd-al-Malik] How is the process of reducing and rescheduling our outstanding debts going following the Paris Club decisions of 25 May 1991?

[Makramallah] Let us not forget that the United States dropped our 7.1 billion dollars of military debts and that the Arab states dropped 6 billion dollars in outstanding debts—13.1 billion dollars in all. We are therefore not now paying any installments or interest on this amount. An agreement was reached with the 17 countries that took part in the Paris Club meetings for them to waive 50 percent of our debts in stages. Under the agreement, 15 percent of the debt was dropped in the first stage, to be followed by another 15 percent 18 months from the date of the Club meeting, and another 20 percent 18 months later. The 50-percent reduction will be completed three years from the date of the Paris Club meeting, because these countries have their own budgets and need to distribute the burden of waiving these debts in stages.

['Abd-al-Malik] The date for dropping the second part (15 percent) is approaching and, under the terms of the agreement, to implement each stage, the government must be serious about the economic reform process. What is your opinion?

[Makramallah] Talks on dropping the second part of the debt will be held in January. As you see, we are making firm and successful steps in the economic reform process. Following the January reduction, 30 percent will have been dropped. The remaining 20 percent will be dropped 18 months later.

['Abd-al-Malik] How much are we paying now in debt installments and interest after dropping these billions of debts?

[Makramallah] This is hard to say, because some of our creditors did not take part in the Paris Club meeting, but their debts are limited. The Paris Club stipulated that these countries' debts be rescheduled according to Club terms. But these countries refuse the Paris Club terms and negotiations with them are continuing. As I said, their debts are not considerable. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Malik] Now that we have completed building most of our infrastructure, which, in the past, compelled

us to borrow huge amounts of money from abroad, how much do we borrow annually?

[Mahrouslish] Our loans from abroad do not exceed 500 million dollars a year at most. We must consider that most of these loans are extended on extremely easy terms. Germany grants us loans with a 0.75 percent interest rate and 10 years grace, repayable over 30 years. The International Development Agency of the World Bank gives us loans on the same terms and with a 0.75-percent interest rate. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Malik] It is said that U.S. aid to Egypt, which amounts to 2.1 billion dollars a year, is granted on hard terms. Most of it is spent on salaries to U.S. experts, consultants, and employees sent by the United States to supervise the activities on which these funds are spent. The items needed for the project covered by the U.S. grant must be bought from the United States at prices much higher than world prices.

[Mahrouslish] This is exaggerated and inaccurate talk, which some people are interested in repeating. U.S. aid to Egypt, which has not been reduced, includes 815 million dollars in grant aid and 1.3 billion dollars of military grant. If we look at the projects covered by the grant, we will find that our commercial office in the United States invites bids and we choose the least expensive. True, some U.S. consultants are involved, but this is a very small percentage. Further, these firms undertake very important, high- quality work and we benefit from the American expertise and modern technology offered by these firms. Normally, American expertise costs more, which is natural, because the quality of their expertise is higher. But these costs do not represent more than 2 percent [of the project budget] and it is in exchange for a job they do. From this grant, we obtain 115 million dollars in cash, including 150 million dollars [figure as published] for the private sector and 25 million dollars for the public sector, used for commodity imports. The grant used for commodity imports has been increased to 300 million dollars.

['Abd-al-Malik] My last question is: Can we do without borrowing now that the debts have been reduced and in light of the successful results of the Paris Club?

[Mahrouslish] This is impossible in the circumstances. I will tell you why. Borrowing money for an important, profit-making project is inevitable, because we need development and local resources are inadequate. So we must borrow. But borrowing must be on a very small scale and the loans must be well used, which is what we are doing now. We must work conscientiously, diligently, and hard so that we need not borrow in future.

Region Sees an 'Back Burner Again' Under Clinton

NC1811111392 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 Nov 92 p 8

[From the "Close-Up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Clinton and The Middle East"]

[Text] Since U.S. elections ended in Bill Clinton's victory, speculation has been rife about the new president's policies, particularly on foreign affairs.

The speculation is likely to continue unabated for the next three months until President-elect Clinton assumes office and his administration defines its policies in a clear-cut manner.

Many would agree that although the new president's priorities will seem to concentrate in the early part of his term on issues [not further specified], there are urgent issues that cannot wait.

Many in the Arab world would like to believe the Middle East and the current peace efforts are among those urgent issues to which the new U.S. Administration would give top priority.

This optimistic view is probably based on U.S. assurances that there is some coordination between the Bush administration and the president-elect's working team and Clinton's remarks in an interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES, when he seemed to reiterate previous U.S. assurances concerning the U.S. role as an honest mediator. Clinton also reiterated his election campaign statements about Israel's security.

Doubtless these positions are not substantially different from those of the outgoing administration, but the problem for the Arab side remains the possibility of procrastination and dithering and excuses and maneuvers by Israel. Israel may waste time on talks about talks and avoid getting to the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict—the Palestinian issue.

In the recent round of talks the Bush administration declined to intervene to narrow the differences among the various sides. It took a back seat and let the participating delegations conduct the talks and meetings on their own.

One year after talks began, no tangible results have been achieved. Hopes entertained by some Arabs that an agreement of principles would be reached before the U.S. election—so boosting Bush's reelection chances—were dashed. Israel got all it wanted from the Bush administration. It obtained the loans and signed strategic and military agreements with the United States without giving anything in return. Israel has not even abandoned its settlement-building program in the occupied territories.

These signals indicate that the new U.S. Administration will maintain the same methods and approach as the Bush administration, even before Clinton moves in to the White House and gets on with his new job. The Clinton administration will see no reason for haste or interference in the Israeli-Arab talks. The talks will still proceed on the same rocky terrain with which we are now familiar.

To sum up, the recent wave of optimism that everything is all right is unjustified. Israel, for many reasons, is not eager to reach a quick agreement and Clinton—despite

any claims to the contrary—will, for obvious reasons, be busy with domestic affairs. We must face this fact, deal with it, and not be shocked to see the Middle East issue placed on the back burner again.

'Zionist' Lobby Pressure on Clinton Viewed

NC1611150492 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASAT in Arabic 8 Nov 92 p 2

[Editorial: "America's Zionists and Clinton's Burdens"]

[Text] U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton has started to face the problems and burdens of office, although he will not assume power until 20 January. While President George Bush has gone to the Camp David retreat to rest from the problems of the presidency that he will leave soon, Bill Clinton has been forced to stay at home as Arkansas governor and be near to his aides to study the problems facing the team tasked with taking over power from the Republicans. He is also facing pressure from various camps inside the Democratic Party that want to influence the composition of the new administration that has not yet been formed.

It is within this context that the scandal of David Steiner, leader of the Zionist lobby in the United States, has exposed the Jews' persistent efforts to infiltrate the new Democratic administration. This scandal began when THE WASHINGTON TIMES on Wednesday published the text of a telephone conversation between Steiner and Jewish businessman Harry Katz on 22 October, less than two weeks before the U.S. presidential election. Steiner, who is the chairman of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, otherwise known as AIPAC, admitted in this call to playing the Bush and Clinton cards at the same time.

Steiner said he held talks with the Bush camp, specifically James Baker, and asked for billions of dollars in aid to Israel in return for a commitment that the Jews would not cause problems for President Bush during the last days of the election campaign. He also admitted to holding simultaneous contacts with Democratic candidate Bill Clinton's camp to confirm the Jewish votes for him to ensure that, should Clinton win, several pro-Israelis would be appointed to sensitive posts in the Democratic administration. When Steiner was confronted with these recorded admissions, he could not deny them and was forced to resign as AIPAC chairman, confirming the validity of these confessions.

The first reaction came from Democratic President-elect Bill Clinton's camp. Those close to him denied Clinton gave the AIPAC leaders any secret promises or commitment to choose certain people for his administration's important posts. Observers note that Clinton's choice of Warren Christopher as head of the team that will take over from the Republicans was a slap in the face for the Zionist lobby, which loathes Christopher and accuses him of not being loyal to Israel, because he showed obvious moderation in dealing with the Middle East crisis when he was President Carter's deputy secretary of state.

Observers say that following this step, Christopher has become the strongest candidate to take over the State Department in Clinton's administration, particularly after former New York representative Stephen Solarz lost in the election. Solarz was the Zionist lobby's favorite for the post of secretary of state in the new Democratic administration.

There are Zionists in the Democratic Party who are calling on Clinton to bring down Yitzhaq Rabin's government, like the Bush Administration did Yitzhaq Shamir's government, to pave the way for the return of the Likud to power in Israel and to enter into an American confrontation with Syria, using the file on terrorism and human rights as an excuse.

There are those who are calling on Clinton to destroy the peace process. Amid these pressures, the President-elect should balance his decisions and should consider that the interests of U.S. national security must have priority and that the peace process has become part of U.S. interests in the Middle East.

More on 'Zionist' Interference

NC1611142492 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 9 Nov 92 p 2

[From the "Comment" column by Hussya 'Abd-al-Wahid: "Zionist Penetration"]

[Text] Pro-Israeli pressure groups in the United States are again proving that they leave nothing to chance when an issue concerns Israel's interests. The Zionist lobby is again affirming its insistence on being a real participant and not confining itself to mere reaction to any event that affects Israel.

This is the new, yet old, lesson raised by the scandal of the Zionist penetration of the U.S. president-elect's campaign during which David Steiner, chairman of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee "AIPAC", tried to get pro-Israeli elements into the new President's inner circle.

This attempt was undoubtedly not the only one made by the U.S. Jews during the election campaign, although it is the only one to come to public attention. It is quite logical to claim there were other similar attempts in the Republican camp during the Congress and governors' elections.

The odd thing is for the Zionist lobby in the United States to seek to penetrate the Democratic President's inner circle, despite his repeated confirmations of his biased stands on Israel, including his recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and despite the Democratic Party platform reflecting the Israeli viewpoint.

The only significance of this is that the U.S. Jews are still not fully assured of Clinton's policies, based on the premise that his statements during the election campaign were merely a candidate's general expressions, not final stands.

Regardless of the Zionist penetration of the Clinton campaign being an attempt to interfere in internal U.S. affairs, the practical lesson remaining is that the U.S. Jews were not content to influence the election process, but attempted to interfere directly in drawing up the outlines of the new U.S. Administration so that it will be completely loyal to Israel.

There is no way this scandal could be regarded as "one person's mistake," committed by the leader of the Jewish lobby in the United States and over which he resigned. It is most certainly a link in a larger strategy to control decision-making centers in Washington and other capitals.

Regrettably, this scandal is taking place while some Arabs are preoccupied with scanning horoscopes to learn about the new President and others are oblivious to anything but their daydreaming, engulfed by the happy thought that U.S. interests dictate Washington's policy.

Columnist Expects Clinton To 'Favor' Israel

NC1611113892 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 11 Nov 92 p 2

[Article by Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad: "Clinton and U.S. Foreign Policy"]

[Text] In one of his first statements following his election as president of the United States, Bill Clinton said he will continue the foreign policy of his predecessor and presidential rival George Bush. But this statement was meant to neutralize anyone who might stand up to the United States and followed Bush's accusation during the election campaign that his dog understands foreign policy better than Bill Clinton.

U.S. foreign policy will undoubtedly change. It will change in favor of Israel, specifically in favor of the Labor Party in Israel under Yitzhaq Rabin. It will not change for the better in favor of Arab parties that have quarreled with Bush and celebrated his downfall, such as the Iraqi regime.

Clinton is expected to receive Rabin in Washington as soon he takes over officially in March [as published]. Rabin said the new American President, in his reply to Rabin's cable of congratulation, said his focus on domestic affairs, particularly on the U.S. economy, will not affect U.S. aid to Israel, that his interest in local affairs will not weaken his interest in the Middle East peace process, which he places at "the top of his priorities in foreign policy", and that his support for Israel will continue and become stronger. U.S. officials in Jerusalem have said that Israel is now receiving 38 percent of the total U.S. foreign aid, a figure that will rise to 44 percent next year following a reduction in aid to other countries. They have also said that military aid to Israel will rise from 44 percent this year to 54 percent next year.

Israel's loyalists have an important place in the new U.S. Administration. Around 80 percent of America's Jews voted for Clinton and Jewish organizations contributed 62 million dollars to his election campaign, according to David Sterner, chairman of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. The publication of the transcript of a telephone call, in which Sterner referred to this and to these organizations' demand for a decisive say in the choice of the next secretary of state and national security adviser, raised a big clamor that embarrassed Clinton even before he started to appoint his aides. Sterner was forced to resign to contain the scandal.

It is worth our while to note that Saddam Husayn is wrong if he believes Clinton will be more open to and tolerant of the Iraqi regime. I believe Saddam should expect the opposite. Throughout the election campaign, Clinton accused Bush of adopting an ambiguous stand toward the Iraqi regime and of collaborating with it before confronting it. He labelled this regime as "dictatorial," which is contrary to the slogans of "democracy" and "human rights" that the new President is boasting about and is turning into tools to be exploited.

It cannot be said that Clinton is closing the door to all the Arab parties, even if we accept that all the Arab regimes share the common distinction of violating human rights and disregarding democracy to varying degrees.

Clinton was elected because he represented the generation of Americans who opposed the Vietnam war. He did not desist from demonstrating against his country's involvement in this war even when he visited Moscow as a student at Oxford University. This, logically, should make him more sympathetic to the spirit of the Palestinian intifadah than make him feel solidarity with Israel's barbaric repression of this intifadah in a blatant challenge to the principle of human rights and to people's right to self-determination.

Will Clinton abide by his election promise to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, while all three divine religions regard it as holy? Has Clinton the right to squander the rights of Muslims and Christians so much, for the sake of supporting Israel's case?

How can there be talk about "human rights" when Rabin's government persists in building settlements in the occupied Arab territories and refuses to stop, using security as an excuse?

But the Arab parties' criticism of Israel's violations of "human rights" will have no credibility while they too are not committed to these rights. Will this be possible? Can the Arab regimes attune themselves to the requirements of a new situation in which the U.S. mediator has characteristics that differ greatly from those of the former three U.S. Republican administrations?

One of the options is the possibility that former "Democratic" U.S. President Jimmy Carter might be chosen to play a prominent role in the Middle East peace negotiations. In a statement a few days ago, [former Israeli Prime Minister] Shamir voiced his categorical opposition to any such role that Clinton might give Carter. Will the Arab parties also reject him because he was the architect of "Camp David?"

Daily Says Change in U.S. Policy 'Unlikely'

NC1411183592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 14 Nov 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "Impetus," AL-AHRAM says today that the Arab side should not be overly apprehensive of the administration of Democratic President-elect Bill Clinton. It is unlikely that the main features of U.S. policy will be changed with the change of leaders, the paper says, because the United States has major interests in the Middle East.

The newspaper adds: The peace talks are likely to continue through January on the same principles as before. The talks, despite their lack of progress, have allowed an objective dialogue to occur between the delegations and have inspired some fresh ideas.

AL-AHRAM says that the parties are aware of the importance of continuing the negotiations even without external impetus. The negotiating sides are more confident of their ability to maintain their dialogue so there is no need for the new administration in Washington to intervene in a way that may alter the picture or discourage any of the negotiating sides.

Libya

General People's Congress Announces Appointments

LD1811220992 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Resolutions adopted by General People's Congress, read out by the Congress assistant secretary—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. General People's Congress [GPC] Resolution No. 1: The General People's Congress has decided to select its secretariat as follows:

Brother al-Zanuzi Muhammad al-Zanuzi, as GPC secretary.

Brother Muhammad Mahmud al-Hijazi, as assistant secretary.

Sister Salmah Rashid, as assistant secretary for women affairs.

Brother al-Tayib al-Safi, as secretary for conferences affairs.

Brother 'Abd-al-Latif 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Dali, as secretary for people's committees affairs.

Brother Dr. 'Umar Shalbak, as secretary for trade unions, federations and vocational associations affairs.

Brother Bashir Salih Bashir, as secretary for foreign affairs.

GPC Resolution No. 2 on the setting up of the General People's Committee: The GPC has decided to select the General People's Committee in the following manner:

Brother 'Umar Abu Zayd Durdah as secretary of General People's Committee.

Brother Engineer Jadallah Azzuz al-Talhi as secretary of the General People's Committee for Industry

Brother 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir as secretary of the General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation

Brother Miftah Ku'aybah as secretary of the General People's Committee for Marine Resources

Brother Engineer Mubarak al-Shamikh as secretary of the General People's Committee for Utilities, Tourism, and Communications

Brother Engineer Mahdaq Muhammad Mahdaq as secretary of the General People's Committee for Education, Youth, Scientific Research and Vocational Training

Brother 'Ali Muzni al-Hu'ir as secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture

Brother Juma'ah al-Mahdi al-Fazzani as secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity

Brother Ibrahim Muhammad Bakkar as secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security

Brother 'Abdallah Salim al-Badri as secretary of the General People's Committee for Energy

Brother Dr. Muhammad Bayt al-Mal as secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning, Trade, and Finance

Brother 'Isa 'Abd-al-Kafi as secretary of the General People's Committee for Agrarian Reform, Land Reclamation, and Animal Resources

Brother Dr. al-Baghdadi al-Mahmudi as secretary of the General People's Committee for Health and Social Security

GPC Resolution No. 3: The GPC has decided to select Mr. Muhammad al-Zarruq Rajab as secretary of the General People's Committee for Control and Popular Follow-up.

GPC Resolution No. 4: The GPC has decided to select Mr 'Abd-al-Razzaq Al-Sawsa' as general public prosecutor.

GPC Resolution No. 5: The GPC has decided to commission the General People's Committee to take all the necessary measures to continue and organize the local services formerly run by the people's committees in municipalities and their branches until the end of the current financial year 1992-93; to complete the organization of local people's committees in line with the new administrative structure; and to determine these committees' particular specializations.

People's Congress Statement Assails Sanctions

LD1811225392 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Political Statement of General People's Congress, read by congress official—live]

[Text] While recalling its previous resolutions adopted at its ordinary session from 13 to 22 June 1992, the General people's Congress [GPC] stresses the firm stance of the Great Socialist, People's, Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [GSPLAJ] in condemning terrorism in all its forms and shapes.

Regardless of the fact that the world peaceful Arab Libyan people was the one which suffered most from terrorism, and despite the GSPLAJ's feeling of bitterness and injustice at the adoption of the blockade resolutions against it, it accepted Resolution 730 of 1992 and expressed its readiness to cooperate in the judicial inquiries and with the United Nations. This was with the aim of reaching the truth about what has come to be known as the Lockerbie incident, which was basically and strictly a legal case that could have been solved had it not been transformed into a political issue to be exploited at the Security Council in the shadow of the absence of international balance, with the aim of harming Libya and distorting its reputation not for an offense it had committed but only because it wanted to live according to its free options, and had neither the time nor the desire to antagonize others and enter into confrontation with the great powers.

The sanctions that were imposed on the peaceful Arab Libyan people had negative consequences on the normal course of its life and even it done, as is shown by the following figures:

The economic blockade cost was more than $2.4 billion.

The blockade caused the death of hundreds of people. More than 150 children died and 20 women died in childbirth.

There has been a decline in all hospitals and medical services as a result of shortages of vaccines and serums that should be transported by air.

The blockade has hampered many of our doctors from participating in international conferences and prevented many experts and specialists from coming to Libya to treat difficult cases. In addition many doctors scheduled to take part in surgical operations at Libyan hospitals could not come to Libya after the blockade, a matter which caused an estimated 570 deaths.

The embargo on spare parts has caused technical difficulties. Air transport inside Libya has been suffering from this, and it might cause more deaths. The UN Security Council and the states which brought this about in its name bear the responsibility. The ban on the import of spare parts has resulted in hampering transport movement, the running of factories and agricultural machinery, and our capabilities. The embargo on arms contravenes article 51 of the UN Charter, which lays down the legitimate right of self-defense. The Libyan people have been deprived of this right.

While recalling all this, the GPC affirms the following:

The GSPLAJ welcomes the visit of the French judge and is ready to provide all the facilities and means to enable him to carry out his task. It calls on the governments concerned to observe the logic of dialogue and law which is the ideal way at arriving at the truth. It declares once again Libya's acceptance to try those who are suspected before a just and honest court over which agreement is to be reached.

Following the response of the GSPLAJ to the UN Security Council resolutions, the GPC demands that the international community, human rights groups, the UN Security Council, and the international conscience work to immediately lift the sanctions on the Libyan Arab people immediately and to let it live in peace.

The GPC thanks the peace-loving forces which stood alongside the Libyan Arab people—regional and international organizations such as the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, the OAU, the Non-aligned Movement, and also the popular groupings and organizations which declared their stand alongside right and justice.

Ennay, Butros-Ghali Discuss Crisis With West

LD1911110992 Tripoli JANA in English 0800 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] New York, al-Harib [November] 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The permanent delegate of the Great Jamahiriyah to the United Nations Dr 'Ali al-Hudayri last Thursday met with the Secretary General of the United Nations Butros Butros-Ghali.

Following the meeting, Dr al-Hudayri declared that viewpoints were exchanged on finding a peaceful solution to the crisis between the Great Jamahiriyah and Western countries.

On the other hand, an official spokesman for the secretary general of the United Nations denied the report carried by AL-AHRAM newspaper which claimed that

the U.N. secretary general delivered a letter to the delegate of the Great Jamahiriyah for Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The spokesman said that the U.N assistant secretary general for political affairs Petrovskiy will continue his contacts with the permanent delegate of the Great Jamahiriyah to the U.N. towards finding a peaceful solution for the issue.

Source Denies Receiving Message

NC1111155892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—A responsible Libyan source has denied reports that Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received a message from UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali on the crisis between Libya and the West. In a statement disseminated by the Libyan People's Bureau in Cairo and transmitted by JANA, the Libyan source said that the only party authorized to hold contacts on foreign policy is the People's Committee for External Liaison. The source added that Col. al-Qadhdhafi is the revolution leader and not a state president and therefore has no powers to discuss issues that concern the People's Committee for External Liaison.

The source said that the People's Committee for External Liaison has not yet received a letter which confirms that these reports are false. The source said that Libya agreed to Resolution 731 and implemented all its clauses, and consequently, there is no justification for the continued unfair and coercive measures imposed against Libya.

Opposition Says Al-Qadhdhafi in Charge of Foreign Affairs

PM1711143092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Nov 92 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Opposition: Al-Qadhdhafi Responsible for All Decisions"]

[Text] London—The Libyan opposition has emphasized that Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi "is fully responsible for domestic and foreign policies in Libya."

Ibrahim Sahd, spokesman for the Libyan National Salvation Front (the main opposition faction), replied to the official Libyan news agency JANA's statement that Al-Qadhdhafi "has no powers to decide issues related to foreign policy." Sahd said: "One must wonder: What are the leader of the revolution's powers? And what legal document can one refer to in order to know what Al-Qadhdhafi's powers are?"

He added: "Al-Qadhdhafi received the UN secretary general's envoy within the Lockerbie crisis framework, as if during his recent visit to Tripoli President Husni Mubarak discussed with Col. al-Qadhdhafi all the issues related to the Lockerbie crisis."

He went on: "The so-called revolutionary legitimacy documents decided that Al-Qadhdhafi's instructions are binding on all organs, thus the Libyan agency's statement is a nonsense which Libyan organs have persisted in repeating in a bid to distance Al-Qadhdhafi from his responsibility in the question put before the French investigating judge and the Security Council."

Mauritania

President Holds Talks With Algerian Leader

LD1311061792 Algiers APS in English 1008 GMT 12 Nov 92

[Text] Nouakchott/12/11/92 (APS)—Ali Kafi, president of the Higher State Committee (HCE), had on Wednesday, here, tete-a-tete talks with Mauritanian President, Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya.

These talks, which were held in connection with works of the fifth summit of the Arab Maghreb Union's council of the presidency, enabled the two presidents to examine questions interesting the two countries and other Arab and international questions.

On another turn, the president of the Higher State Committee audienced the Moroccan prime minister, Karim Lambrani who represented the king of Morocco, Hassan II, to the fifth summit.

Talks were centered on the Arab Maghreb Union edification process and questions of common interest.

Western Saharan Representative Meets President

LD1611053092 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 0000 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] His Excellency Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, president of the Republic, received this afternoon Mahmoud Abdelfettah, a member of the national political bureau and adviser to the President of the SDAR [Saharan Democratic Arab Republic]. During the audience the Saharan official handed a message from Mohamed Abdelaziz over to His Excellency the president. The audience was also attended by presidential adviser (Mohamed Ould Ennani).

Following his meeting with His Excellency the president of the Republic, the Saharan envoy made the following statement to our colleague Baba Sidi Abdallah:

[Begin Abdelfettah recording] I had the honor of meeting the president and I handed His Excellency a message from SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz on the latest developments in connection with the implementation of the UN plan aimed at settling the Saharan issue in a just and peaceful way. We can say that there is a joint effort to consolidate the brotherly relations existing between Mauritania and the SDAR. There is also concern about

the necessity of stability, the establishment of which depends basically on the just resolution of the Western Sahara issue on the basis of UN resolutions. [end recording]

Prime Minister Visits Belgium, Returns

AB1811105192 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] Continuing his working visit to Brussels, Prime Minister Mohamed Sidi Ould Boubaker held discussions on 13 November with Manuel Marin, the EEC vice president in charge of cooperation and development. Discussions centered on relations between Mauritania and the EEC. After the meeting, the EEC commissioner said the EEC supports our country's political reforms and economic program through financing and assistance to our country's structural adjustment and health programs. The European official also said that food aid granted to our country would be sent immediately to Nouakchott.

After these discussions which were attended by Planning Minister Mohamed Ould Michel, the prime minister's permanent undersecretary, Mohamed Maaouiya, and our ambassador to Brussels, Ould Allaf Ely, Prime Minister Mohamed Sidi Ould Boubaker and Mr. Manuel Marin held a joint news conference at the EEC headquarters. Mohamed Sidi Ould Boubaker spoke about the democratic process in Mauritania, negotiations with international financial institutions, and Maghreb Arab Union-EEC relations.

On the evening of 13 November, the prime minister held discussions with the Belgian deputy minister of foreign affairs on prospects for cooperation and trade between the two countries. Mohamed Sidi Ould Boubaker also met with the director general of development aid.

[Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French at 0730 GMT on 15 Nov reports the following: Prime Minister Mohamed Sidi Ould Boubaker returned to Nouakchott on 14 November from Brussels where he met with EEC officials. The prime minister was welcomed on his return by the members of government and of his office.

In a statement, the prime minister said during his visit to the Belgian capital, he met with EEC officials, particularly Mr. Manuel Marin, the European commissioner in charge of cooperation, and (Henry Sabi), chairman of the cooperation commission in the European Parliament. He held discussions with the European officials on fields relating to cooperation between the community and Mauritania. The EEC officials expressed admiration for the satisfactory results of the democratic process in our country.]

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Union Policies

PM1811113592 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Nov 92 p 2

[Talhah Jibril and Abdallah Ould Mohamedi report: "Mauritanian Foreign Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Nouakchott Summit Did Not Discuss Fundamentalist Movements Issue"]

[Excerpts] Nouakchott—Mauritanian Foreign Minister Mohamed Abdrahmane Ould Moine has denied reports that the fundamentalist movements issue was discussed at the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] summit held in Nouakchott. Ould Moine, who was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in his office in the Mauritanian capital, said that this issue was not raised at either foreign minister or summit level.

Asked about what was intended by the term extremist and terrorist movements mentioned in the summit's final statement, the Mauritanian official said that this term meant any person or movement seeking to harm the systems or laws of any Arab Maghreb country. He pointed out that the region's states agreed not to allow any quarter to operate from one state's territory to harm a neighboring state's security and system. He pointed out that Maghreb states agreed to punish anyone who seeks to violate the laws in force.

Ould Moine expressed his belief that the Nouakchott summit was successful because it achieved unanimity. He pointed out that not a single state voice reservations about the issues raised or those agreed upon. The final statement, he said, was endorsed by all delegations. And some Arab and African issues were discussed in detail for the first time. There was a unanimity over these issues—which I regard as a new and positive phenomenon.

Asked whether the Mauritanians sensed that the Union was experiencing a crisis during their presidency of its current session, Ould Moine said: We did not sense that, because the leaders' will and the people's desire were capable of warding off any danger. However, he admitted that the Union is moving slowly, attributing this to every state's domestic problems and concerns.

He pointed out that during his tour of the region's capitals he did not sense any skepticism about the benefit of the Union's continuation, emphasizing that the UMA is fine. [passage omitted]

On the Union's position on the embargo imposed on Libya, Ould Moine said UN resolutions are binding on everyone and have been implemented by the Arab Maghreb states, but these states will seek to get the embargo lifted via political and diplomatic contacts with the states concerned in order to bring views closer. He pointed out that there is optimism about the possibility of achieving a settlement. Maybe the time is now ripe to talk about specific steps, he said. However, efforts are being made with the Security Council members to bring an end to the problem and save the Libyans' face.

On the role the Union could play in finding a settlement to the Sahara problem Ould Moine said that everyone supports the UN resolutions on the organization of a referendum in the area. And Morocco accepted these resolutions and so did the Sahara people. What is required is to prepare favorable conditions to organize the referendum. He pointed out that the dispute between Morocco and the Sahara people is now limited to the criteria for listing participants in the referendum—which can be assigned to the United Nations. What is important, he added, is the region's stability and preparation of a favorable climate to resolve this problem.

Sudan

Chadian Rebel Group Surrenders Arms to Authorities

EA1811221192 Khartoum SUNA in English 1635 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] al-Fashir, 18 November (SUNA)—The Chadian National Front has handed over to the Sudanese Armed Forces at al-Junaynah garrison [on the Sudan-Chad border] its arms in the context of the reconciliation reached between the Front and the Chadian Government through the Sudanese mediation. Darfur States Minister of Education and Culture Abdullah Abu Fatima Abdullah announced Wednesday [18 November].

This step, Abu Fatima said, would bring end to the problem between the two sides, affirming that the Sudan Government will not tolerate [the] presence [of] opposition to the Chadian Government on its territories. The reconciliation is sponsored by al-Junaynah Province commissioner.

Chad's Deby Begins Official Visit 16 Nov

AB1711105592 Ndjamena Radiodiffusion Nationale Tchadienne in French 1900 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] The head of state, Colonel Idriss Deby, began an official working visit to Sudan this morning. He arrived at Khartoum International Airport at 1000. He was met on arrival by his Sudanese counterpart, General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, who was accompanied by members of his government. It is worth noting that President Idriss Deby is accompanied on the visit by Defense Minister Loum Hissenou Laina and Agriculture Minister Bambe Dounaia.

According to the program of the head of state's visit, he will attend a graduation ceremony this afternoon at (Gatong) Military College, in line with the military cooperation between the two countries. It is worth recalling that Chad maintains good relations with Sudan. Many Chadian National Army officers were trained in that military academy, therefore, there is no doubt that the presence of Minister Loum Hissenou Laina on the delegation will help to strengthen this cooperation.

In the evening, at just about this time, Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir and his guest are expected to hold their first round of private talks at the Friendship Palace. The first day of this visit will later be crowned with a dinner for the Chadian delegation at the Friendship Palace.

Habbi Talks With Al-Bashir

EA1711164592 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Excerpt] The president, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, and the country's guest, Chadian President Idriss Deby, will attend the celebrations of the Engineering Corps in (Alafawa) town this morning. The celebration includes military shows and the opening of a number of establishments in (Alafawa) military training center.

In a separate development, official talks between Sudan and Chad were convened on 16 November. The Sudanese side was led by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC and the Council of Ministers, and the Chadian side was led by President Idriss Deby.

Lt. Gen al-Bashir affirmed at the start of the talks that the developing relations between Sudan and Chad [words indistinct] translated to a working program to cover trade, agriculture, and industry. His Excellency ?declared) Sudan's readiness to assist sisterly Chad.

In a separate development, the Chadian president affirmed that relations between the two countries had greatly developed, pointing to the support being provided by the Sudanese Government. [passage omitted]

Calls Talks 'Successful'; Departs

EA1811220092 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Khartoum, 18 November (SUNA)—Chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] Gen 'Umar al-Bashir has said that his talks with the Chadian President Idriss Deby talked [as received] all issues of mutual concern, top of which was the cooperation between the Sudan and Chad at the security, agricultural and cultural spheres. Gen al-Bashir, in a press statement, said that the visit of President Deby to the Sudan was successful and will further boost the bilateral relations.

He explained that measures are being taken under auspices of the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] and the commissioner of refugee affairs in Sudan for organising voluntary repatriation of Chadian refugees in the Sudan.

Responding to a question on the displaced situation in the Sudan, he said that the visit of the representative of the U.N. Secretary-General for displaced affairs, Dr

Francis Deng, affirmed that the displaced are in good situation and enjoying services rendered to them by government.

Gen al-Bashir pointed out that the government is serious to achieve a peaceful solution to the south Sudan question, emphasizing that the Armed Forces is maintaining full control in the South.

The RCC chairman added that all the successes realized by the revolution, including self-sufficiency in grains and sugar production, were an outcome of the coordination of official and popular actions.

[Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic at 0315 GMT on 18 November earlier reported: "The Chadian president, Idriss Deby, left Khartoum yesterday evening, returning to his country after a working visit during which he held discussions with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC and of the Council of Ministers, on the relations between the two countries and their development in all fields. The Chadian president explained in a press statement shortly before his departure from Khartoum that his visit to Sudan was successful and that his discussions with officials dealt with all questions of mutual interest. He said the viewpoints of the Sudanese and Chadians were identical on all questions discussed. His excellency explained that there is a firm desire on both sides to develop and consolidate the joint cooperation between the two countries to achieve the interests of the two brotherly peoples. The Chadian president commended Sudan's efforts to establish peace in Chad."]

Egyptian Economy Minister Visits

Meets With Commerce Minister

EA1711173092 Khartoum SUNA in English 1638 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Nov (SUNA)—Commerce, Cooperation and Supply Minister Dr Ibrahim 'Ubaydallah met Monday [16 November] with Egyptian Economy and External Trade Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa and held talks on promotion of economic and trade relations between Sudan and Egypt.

Dr 'Ubaydallah said in a press statement that the Egyptian minister's visit to Sudan avails an opportunity to review obstacles hindering the flow of trade between the two countries. The 350 million dollars trade protocol signed between the two countries in March 1992 would also be tackled in the talks, he said. Dr 'Ubaydallah reiterated keenness of the two countries on implementing the trade protocol.

The Egyptian minister, on his part, said the meeting had reviewed all of boosting bilateral trade relations. [sentence as received] He added that his visit aims at following up the implementation of the trade protocol, noting that only 45 million dollars of the protocol was implemented so far. The Egyptian minister arrived in Khartoum Monday morning.

Confers With Al-Bashir

EA1911093092 Khartoum SUNA in English 0945 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Nov (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] General 'Umar al-Bashir met here Tuesday [17 November] evening the visiting Egyptian minister of economy and external commerce, Dr Yusri Mustafa. The minister conveyed to General al-Bashir the greetings of his Egyptian counterpart, President Husni Mubarak.

Dr Mustafa has revived during the meeting the outcome of the Sudanese-Egyptian joint commercial talks, expressing appreciation over the progress of these talks, which [were] characterized by mutual understanding between the two sides.

General al-Bashir emphasized the strength of the deep-rooted relations between the Sudan and Egypt, pointing to the stance of the Sudanese people alongside their brothers in Egypt during the disaster of the earthquake.

Trade Committees Formed With Egypt

EA1611202592 Khartoum SUNA in English 0950 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Nov (SUNA)—Specialized committees were formed to remove obstacles that affect the flow of import and export between Egypt and Sudan. Was came [as received] during the joint Egyptian-Sudanese commercial committee meeting to follow up steps for implementing the protocol and the flow of import and export between the countries.

Egyptian under-secretary of economic [as received] Rafiq Suwaylim in a press statement said the meeting tackled the problems that concern the flow of imports and exports between the two countries. He pointed out that the average rates of implementation this year were doubled compared to rates of previous [years].

Suwaylim added that the committee meetings will concentrate to solve the problems that affect the implementation of the protocol so as to pave the way for handing recommendations to concerned authorities at the next week meeting [as received].

Assassination Attempt Against Garang Fails

EA1911100892 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1325 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Reports from the Ugandan capital, Kampala, say that there was a failed assassination attempt against Sudanese People's Liberation Army John Garang at midnight on 16 November. Two lieutenants have been accused of planting a grenade between his car's tires in order to blow him up. However, they were arrested before their plan could succeed.

It is known that Garang has been placed under the control of the Ugandans and cannot leave the country. It is also known that his movement is threatened by killings. He knows that all the splits which have happened in Uganda and in his movement occurred because his movement is failing and that is the reason why all his members now stand against him. It is known that the last meeting [with his commanders] attended by Garang was in Torit [eastern Equatoria Province of southern Sudan] during last year's rainy season.

PKK's Ocalan Interviewed on Turkish TV

TA1811133192 Ankara Show Television in Turkish 2020 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Interview with Workers Party of Kurdistan, PKK, leader Osman Ocalan by Mithat Bereket in a camp in Zelkh village near Qu'lat Dizah in northern Iraq for the "32d Day" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Bereket] The Turkish people are very interested in knowing if you really signed an agreement with Barzani and Talabani, the Kurdish leaders in northern Iraq. If you have signed such an agreement, what are its conditions?

[Ocalan] We signed an agreement with the Barzani-led Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] and the Talabani-led Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], the two great organizations of the Kurdistan Front. The essence of the agreement is to prevent the Turkish State from using the existence of our forces along the border as a pretext for its intervention in southern Kurdistan. For this, we reorganized our forces along the border. Part of them went to the north, to the various areas of that part of Kurdistan that is under Turkey's sovereignty, and part went south, to the area where we are now. For a variety of reasons, the forces here do not play an active role in the war.

[Bereket] Did you not surrender to the peshmergas? In our interview with Talabani, he said that you abandoned your arms first, agreed to the ultimatum they gave you, and surrendered. Is this not correct?

[Ocalan] Our agreement with them does not involve such a situation. Our agreement has only one aim: to move further away from the border, to vacate the border, and to eliminate the pretexts of the Turkish State about the existence of our forces along the border, which it uses to intervene in southern Kurdistan and to mislead the masses. The Turkish State has always issued this propaganda: that our struggle begins outside, in Syria, Iran, and along the border. That is not true. I admit that we used those areas as well, but they were never the basic foundations in the development of our struggle.

[Bereket] Did you completely vacate your camps in the Khakurk valley?

[Ocalan] We stopped our forces along the border from being a problem. We do not feel the need to engage in any serious military activity in those areas.

[Bereket] Yet, you left the camps along the border, and you were brought here under the supervision of the peshmergas. Do you not think that this is a step backward?

[Ocalan] We are carrying out a war effort. Wars do not always follow a straight path. If our political and military interests make it necessary for us to take one step backward in order to take two steps forward, then it is not a big problem.

[Bereket] Why did Abdullah Ocalan not sign this agreement? He has not been seen lately. Earlier, he used to take groups of journalists and talk to them. Lately, Apo [Abdullah Ocalan's nom de guerre] has not been seen or heard from. Why is that? Where is he?

[Ocalan] We waged a war for one month, a very tough war. We were faced with a force of close to 100,000 troops. There were 75,000 Turkish Army troops, with all the equipment such as Cobra helicopters, planes, tanks, and the most modern guns and weapons. There were also some 25,000 peshmergas, who were moderately equipped by the United States and Turkey. Our force was of some 2,500 troops. In other words, one person fought 40 people. The commanders who fought along side each other felt the need to set up links with each other. In our side, I was the one who conducted these talks. In other words, the front commanders began to talk rather than political leaders. Since things started that way, I was the one to sign the agreement reached at the end of the talks.

[Bereket] Earlier, you accused both Barzani and Talabani of collaborating with the United States. However, later you signed an agreement with them. Is there no inconsistency in that?

[Ocalan] Both the KDP and the PUK want to implement their policies by depending on various international and regional powers, rather than depending on the people. We have pointed out that this attitude does not work, that it will force them to serve the interests of the powers on which they depend. We maintain our view today.

[Bereket] Will you lift the embargo you imposed on the Turkish border? Is that part of the agreement you signed with the Kurds? The reason I am asking is that along the way we saw all the trucks you set on fire.

[Ocalan] The embargo emerged as a side tactic of the war. The war has stopped, so this problem will also be resolved.

[Bereket] Exactly how many casualties did you incur during the border operation? Is it really 1,800, or is it more?

[Ocalan] Our losses are not above 150. The figure is, in fact, lower than 150. We have as many wounded. On the other hand, 500 Turkish soldiers were killed in the fighting, and the Kurdistan Front incurred more than 1,000 casualties. The Kurdistan Front has as many wounded.

[Bereket] How long will you stay here? Will you return to the camps on the border in the spring?

[Ocalan] Our forces here do not have a decisive role in the struggle; they were not involved in any activity in the war. They were candidates for training along with women, children, and old people. This force fought along the border because it had to, but it was a force that we did not take into consideration in developing the war. It was a reserve force. Whether or not this force is involved in the war do's not affect the issue. Furthermore, we can

organize as many youths as we want, train them in our camps further in, and send them to war.

[Berekat] How many men do you have in Turkey now?

[Ocalan] We have more than 7,000 organized guerrillas inside Turkey, including the forces we sent there as a result of the recent war on the border. If we add the thousands of armed militias, we have more than 10,000 armed troops inside Turkey.

[Berekat] How many people do you have in this camp now?

[Ocalan] We are around 1,250 here.

[Berekat] You were constantly trying to hit the Turkish Armed Forces and isolate them. In a way, you have been hit and isolated. What do you plan to do from now on?

[Ocalan] Our armed struggle will continue without losing any of its momentum because our basic forces have set up bases in various provinces and will continue their war activity without interruption.

[Berekat] However, you kill innocent people. Is this not terrorism? What do you gain?

[Ocalan] Let me point out that the war is inflicting great suffering both on the Turkish and Kurdish peoples.

[Berekat] How long will these mutual killings go on? You have this big Turkish Army before you. Are you not afraid? How long will you go on with this?

[Ocalan] If a people are determined to gain their liberation, then no matter how big an army there is and how powerfully equipped it may be, victory will belong not to the unjust militarist forces but to the people who wage a just struggle and who have gained a modern leadership. We believe this.

[Berekat] The impression in Turkey is that the regional people do not support you any more. Maybe they supported you a little in the past, but not anymore. Furthermore, you received blow after blow, took a backward step, and arrived here. What will you do now?

[Ocalan] If the Turkish State is serious in this allegation, and if the (Yucal) press believes it, let us hold a free referendum. Then we can clearly see if the people are on the side of the state or against it.

[Berekat] The fear you instill in the regional people and the threats you make to them—do they not have an effect?

[Ocalan] Our struggle passed through various stages. At one stage, the people were so afraid of the state they did not support us at all. Today, the state is using violence, killing them, and throwing them in prison, but still the people are meeting all the needs of the guerrillas. No one would support us if we frightened them. There has not been a single person who supported us out of fear, and there will not be.

[Berekat] Is Saddam Husayn helping you or not? The Turkish people want to know.

[Ocalan] He is the man responsible for the Halabjah massacre. He is deeply involved in the massacre of our people. It is out of the question for us to establish relations with a dictator who murdered our people and who does not grant our people the right to live.

[Berekat] How are your relations with Iran? It seems to be the only [word indistinct] Is there any help from there?

[Ocalan] We have always had weak links with Iran. Mostly, we received support from the Kurdish people there. We have never had any serious links with Iran. We have never had camps in Iran, nor did we ever train a single guerrilla in Iran. We have very limited links, and they are based on the support of the Kurdish people there.

Kurdistan Radio Reports Shelling Near Khanaqin

NC1811175292 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Last night, the Iraqi regime's forces shelled peshmerga positions near (?Kwarada) around the city of Khanaqin with heavy artillery. Our correspondent reports that the shelling lasted for over one and half hours without injuring the peshmerga or their families.

Shiite Radio Claims Raid on Regime Forces

NC1811143992 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] As regards [words indistinct] hypocrite Saddam's regime and the continuation of jihad against Ba'thist (?repressive) gangs, the Islamic revolution mujahidin carried out a courageous jihad operation in rebellious al-Basrah Governorate late last week.

The mujahidin targeted one of Saddam's night security patrols. Our men killed two mercenary members of the patrol. Other members of the patrol fled after receiving serious injuries. The Islamic revolution mujahidin returned safely to base, thanks to God.

Minister Oversees 2d Military Exercise Since War

JN1811150892 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Iraq has held its second military exercise since the Gulf war, firing live ammunition during nightime manoeuvers.

Iraqi newspapers reported today that Defense Minister General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid oversaw the exercises, which involved infantry, artillery, and armour and were conducted at an undisclosed location.

Deadline To Sell 'Prohibited Goods' Extended

JN1811202792 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] The Presidential Office has issued the following statement:

In view of reports that some merchants have been unable to sell their stock of goods, the sale of which is prohibited after 20 November 1992, to ward off doubts with a certainty that would help the faithful pursue the path which wins God's approval and serves the great principles of the great Iraqi people's victorious march of jihad, and to preserve the requirements of balance for what God wants to be balanced, the leader president, may God protect and save him, has ordered that the grace period for selling prohibited goods be extended to the end of the day on 10 December 1992 instead of 20 November 1992.

Any prohibited item found after 10 December will confiscated, and violators will be brought before competent courts under charges of economic sabotage during a time of war.

From God we seek success.

[Signed] Hatim Hamdun al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office

Prime Minister on Cohesion Between Saddam, Iraqis

JN1411133392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a regular session under Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi this morning. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz attended.

At the outset of the session, the prime minister spoke on the 10th anniversary of the greatest pledge of allegiance, the one made to hold leader Saddam Husayn by all social strata of the people.

The prime minister said: The parties to the conspiracy, the chapters of which were unfolded during the war of aggression Iran launched against Iraq, attempted to destroy the strong relationship existing between the people and the leader, but to no avail, since their attempts only enhanced the people's rallying around their leader. When these parties failed in their endeavor, they opted for direct confrontation during the immortal blessed al-Qadisiyah and the chapter of treachery and treason. Thus, all enemies and conspirators, leaders and lackeys alike, mobilized their resources against Iraq. However, they only reaped loss and abysmal defeat. As for the people, they all emerged proud, rallying around their leader, and upholding the banner of jihad and reconstruction in a counteroffensive that assured enemies and globbered friends.

The prime minister went on to say: We, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, pledge to the leader president to remain loyal soldiers and sharp swords in the face of any despot who entertains the notion of undermining Iraq and its people. We wish our beloved leader continued good health, long life, and constant success and pride, and our loyal and honest people victory and glory.

During the meeting, the Council of Ministers discussed a host of topics listed on its agenda related to organizational, financial, and economic matters, and made the proper decisions and recommendations regarding them.

Ramadan Discusses POW's With ICRC Official

JN1811200892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, has received an International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] delegation headed by committee member Ruddy Jacklee [name as received].

During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan said he hopes the international organizations will play their humanitarian role to show interest for human rights in a serious and fair manner, in accordance with international principles, laws, and charters. He pointed out that the Iranian regime is still holding thousands of Iraqi prisoners, and has been for 12 years despite the fact that the war ended four years ago.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said the credibility of international committees championing the cause of human rights can de demonstrated through their sincere efforts to achieve right and spread justice in the world, as well as return prisoners to their country. He referred to the dubious, illegitimate, and unethical means the Iranian regime employs against Iraqi prisoners, the suffering they face in captivity, and the inhuman behavior to which they are subjected.

The RCC member and vice president also asserted that Iraq has fulfilled its commitments to release all Iranian prisoners and stressed that there are no Iranian prisoners in Iraq. He said the Iranian regime's allegations on this regard are baseless and the regime is using these as an excuse to hold Iraqi prisoners and use the issue as a card to implement its aggressive policy.

Ruddy Jacklee said he hopes Iranian authorities will cooperate by releasing all Iraqi prisoners and abide by international laws and charters. He stressed that the ICRC seeks to implement the resolutions pertaining to human rights, particularly those relating to prisoners of war in accordance with the Geneva Convention.

Russian Party Leader Talks With Peace Group Head

JN1811164792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad [dateline incomplete as received]—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, head of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Committee in Iraq, today received Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party, and his accompanying delegation.

Zhirinovskiy voiced pride in the historic ties of friendship linking the peoples of the two countries and stressed the need to develop them. He also praised the position and resolve of the Iraqi people, led by President Saddam Husayn, in the face of aggression.

The conferees discussed means of improving ties of friendship between Iraq and Russia for the benefit of both peoples.

Meets With Assembly Speaker

JN1811154792 Baghdad INA in English 1415 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 18, INA—Speaker of the National Assembly Sa'di Mahdi Salim met here today Mr. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy president of the Russian Liberal Party, currently visiting the country.

The two officials reviewed bilateral friendship and cooperation relations and ways of developing them to serve their joint interests and promote their role in consolidating the world security and peace.

Mr. Salih also explained the situation on the Arab and international arenas and their political and economic developments and discussions and adverse effects of the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq.

Kurdish 'Legislative Council' Meets, Praises Saddam

JN1711165492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] The Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region held a session under Speaker Baha'-al-Din Ahmad today.

At the outset of the session, the speaker delivered a speech, recalling the profound meanings and connotations of the immortal pledge of allegiance. He added: The sons of our Kurdish people now recall that glorious day, on which they made a pledge of allegiance to leader President Saddam Husayn as a father and a mujahid leader for proud and glorious Iraq, vowing to continue the jihad and sacrifices so that goodness may prevail throughout the territory of dear Iraq and so that the agents and traitors, lackeys of foreigners, may be defeated.

The council speaker went on to say: Had it not been for the great concern of leader President Saddam Husayn for realizing our people's aspirations, which have not remained confined to enjoying the gains made, it would have been impossible to achieve the development and progress realized in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, and to envisage the free and decent living being led by our Kurdish people there. Indeed, the leader president closely followed the development endeavor in the region through field visits.

The council speaker said: True patriotism lies in supporting the wise leadership of struggler President Saddam Husayn, because he is the symbol of the dignity of great Iraqis, be they Arabs or Kurds. He noted that the sons of our Kurdish people, who have discovered the falsehood of the claims propagated by traitors and dwarves, are now urged to expose the enemies' intentions and conspiratorial schemes, which aim to undermine the Iraqi people's unity and their free and independent will.

During its session, the council discussed the deteriorating situation in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region as well as our Kurdish people's sufferings, which are caused by the imperialist-Zionist interference in the region and the evil powers' support for their lackeys; namely, traitors and agents. The council also debated the views and proposals expressed by the council members pertaining to the ways and means of establishing a relationship between the council and our Kurdish people. Moreover, the council members discussed our people's role in confronting the enemies' conspiracies and their evil intentions.

The session was attended by Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji, chairman of the Executive Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region.

Writer Criticizes Economic Sector Officials

JN1811125592

[Editorial Report] Baghdad BABIL in Arabic on 15 November carries a 2,000-word front-page article by Muhammad Qurrah under the headline "National Economy Between Sabotage and Ignorance," in which he criticizes some officials and accuses them of sabotaging Iraq's economy.

The writer begins by relating a story in which the Soviet Intelligence, the KGB, arrested and tried a senior Communist Party official, who—at the instructions of the CIA—had prevented officials under his command from acquiring experience in their field of work. He adds that the aim was to destroy the Soviet economy.

The writer says: "Within our meetings with personalities from various social sectors, each in accordance with his scientific level, we met once with a group of economists to discuss the economy. I asked them: Has the current economic situation in the country been caused by the two wars in which Iraq was engaged? Their reply was: No, all world countries, particularly the developed ones,

such as the United States, have been engaged in several wars in many places. Their economies suffered for a short period as a result of these wars, but later the U.S. banks, and the U.S. economy in general, continued their leading position in the world economy. In addition to this, the modernization of armies in many world countries, particularly the big powers, is viewed as something like waging a war because modernization, sometimes, means totally changing an old system and replacing it with a new system. In many instances, countries choose a new armament system costing hundreds of billions of dollars, which equals the cost of a war in a third world country. These countries may embark on projects to develop their military industry. These projects, as was the case with Star Wars, may cost hundreds of billions of dollars."

The writer says: "The economists added: Germany, through all its mass media—books and magazines—deliberately showed pictures of citizens exchanging a pile of marks with a dollar at the end of Hitler's state after the Second World War.

"But Germany managed to build its current economy through one minister of economy, who managed to control the economy. This minister is a true German. He also organized economic activity so that Germany would become a superpower in less than 30 years. Consider also Japan, which came under a large-scale U.S. attack to prevent the Japanese from rebuilding their state and entity. However, the national zeal of a group of no more than seven people, who are purely Japanese, prompted them to establish very strong companies with a very strong economic structure, which later became a mainstay of the Japanese economy, whose trade surplus reached, before the end of 1992—from January 1992 until October 1992—$88 billion. This means that Japan's trade surplus is equal to Iraq's foreign debt, as reported by Western media and economic magazines.

"The economists added: Therefore, the real cause of the current economic situation in our country is not wars or politics. The cause is the economy, and in particular the economists who run the economic process in our country. They also said: When we held our posts, we used to consider many of those who now hold top economic positions as inferior to us when we dealt with them at the time. We are not underestimating them, but these same faces, though in top positions, have not developed and have maintained their old mentality. The revival of our national economy at times is the result of individual endeavor by the leader president through the decisions and laws he issues."

The writer adds that the decisions issued by President Saddam Husayn aim at developing the work of banks and the national economy. He says: "But, as the economists say, there are a group of persons in the Finance Ministry and the Council of Ministers whose only aim is to neutralize these decisions, strip them of their spirit, turn them into mere ink on paper, and prevent them from giving momentum to the process as planned."

The writer then gives three examples to show that some officials obstructed certain banking procedures, thereby, harming Iraq's national economy.

Concluding, the writer asks: "Is this mere ignorance or premeditated sabotaging of the Iraqi economy?"

Oil Minister on OPEC, Other Issues

JN1811150292 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 18, INA—Iraq's oil minister has said the country's return to the world market would bring more stability and cohesion. He also assessed Iraq's commitment to the stability of oil supply and prices.

Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti told THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER, Iraq, with its huge oil reserves and out-put potential, would be an important source in times of crisis.

He said the country has always seen to it that OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) member-states are fully committed to the organization's resolutions.

The minister explained that oil for Iraq is not a commodity to be withheld from the market so that its price can be risen to very high levels. Oil is a strategic commodity that greatly influences the economies of the world as a whole. "Therefore we should handle this commodity seriously and see to it that its price is stable."

Mr. al-Hiti said Iraq is opposed to excessive production of oil which in turn leads to flooding of world markets and a sharp drop in prices.

The oil minister elaborated that imposing exports has created an immoral situation within OPEC whereby member-states started to produce well above their quotas. They began to compete to reach the highest production levels.

"Take Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Iran, for instance. They're producing at their maximum capacity. And this has created some sort of discord that has severely shaken OPEC. One of the reasons behind this chaos is Iraq's absence from the market," Mr. al-Hiti added.

The minister said the status quo will remain until Iraq is back into the market. Iraq, he elaborated, had in the past intervened directly to stop any quota busting by OPEC member-states. This happened when Kuwait exceeded its quota in the period that preceded the events of 1990. Iraq at the time had an effective role in stopping violations of the output ceiling and improving the situation of prices.

The oil minister said today's oil prices, though not at the aspired level, are much better than in the days when Kuwait used to exceed its quota and the prices were down.

According to the minister, OPEC daily output now stands at 24-25 million barrels, and once Iraq is back in the market, the rest of the member-states should curtail their production to avoid exceeding the total OPEC output as well as a collapse of prices. "After all, coordination is everybody's responsibility," Mr. al-Hiti commented.

He stressed that interests of producers and consumers alike should be guaranteed, and that any rise in prices should be carefully considered move.

The minister explained how the sharp price hikes of late 1970's led to a high increase in the prices of commodities imported from the industrialized world. This meant lower profits than those of early 1970's for the developing producers.

Mr. al-Hiti elaborated that Iraq adheres to 21 dollars as the lowest acceptable price for one barrel of oil, and other OPEC member-states should not accept a lower price. The 21-dollar price would bring a sort of stability to incomes of the developing countries.

On the unjust propaganda campaigns launched by the industrialized world against OPEC which they refer to as the "cartel," the oil minister said, "we believe OPEC is a good organization that seeks to guarantee producers' rights. OPEC is not a cartel as they call it, and the United States is leading the anti-OPEC campaign simply because it (U.S.) always seeks to control the world energy market. America does not want any competition from any grouping."

On oil exploration in the country, the minister said prospecting for oil and assessment of resources has never stopped. Efforts are now concentrated on certain areas like the western desert. Drilling work there had already started, said Mr. al-Hiti, adding that the western desert delineated fields are expected to yield large quantities to be added to the country's huge oil reserves.

The oil minister went on to say that efforts are mainly to assess the quality, rather than quantity, of oil in line with the world demand.

Mr. al-Hiti said Iraq is seriously studying means to develop fields through cooperation with foreign firms. The country, he added, welcomes foreign investment in oil industry but only under complete national sovereignty.

"We have to consider cooperation with foreign firms with an open mind. But the most important thing is that the state has full control over the country's natural resources," said the minister.

He added that Iraq now has a greater refining capacity than before the (U.S.-led) aggression.

Mr. al-Hiti said the country is working for boosting oil refining potentials, and there are many projects in this regard. There will be good news on these projects soon, he added.

According to the minister, the damage done to oil facilities and installations by allied attacks is estimated at six billion U.S. dollars.

Mr. al-Hiti expressed admiration for the size of work done to reconstruct what had been damaged or destroyed during the aggression.

"We can say that no foreign firms would have been able to do this size of work in such an exceptional period. It would have been something impossible to achieve."

The local supply of benzine was back to normal just two months after ceasefire in the war.

The minister said the benzine produced by the country's refineries has the standards that were set in 1990, before the aggression. And it has an octane number of 84-85 that is suitable for the majority of car engines in Iraq with the exception of some cars which need a higher octane for better performance.

Mr. al-Hiti said serious work is being done in cooperation with the Military Industry Commission and other ministries to find alternatives for additives used in the production of benzine and lubrication oils.

The minister expressed hope that the country would restore the quality of production, not of 1990 but of 1989 and in a very short time after the end of the blockade. Iraq also has new projects to improve the efficiency of benzine without the use of chemicals. These projects will be implemented when the embargo is lifted.

Mr. al-Hiti said Iraq is fully capable of controlling its border oil fields. It is keeping a close watch on these fields. Undoubtedly, the minister added, if any neighbouring country tried to increase oil production from a border field, "we'll insist on having our full share."

On the aspects of a private sector role in Iraqi oil industry, the minister said he can foresee a role for the private sector in fields of refining or oil products. But oil industry projects need heavy investment, something which the private sector is not ready to do at the moment.

On the question of whether other alternatives can replace oil as a major source of energy in the near future, Iraq's oil minister said that for at least 50 years from now there will be no other alternatives, according to research.

Oil, he elaborated, will remain as an important part of world industry simply because it offers raw material of vital importance to peoples daily life and to the world economy at large.

Mr. al-Hiti drew attention to the fact that in early 21st century many oil fields in the world will be dry.

"I don't believe that fields in the North Sea, East Asia or Iran, for instance, will keep on producing."

However, the minister said, Iraq will continue to be an important supplier of oil, and energy, for many years to come.

Health Minister Departs for Conference in Tunis

JN1411173392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA)—Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak, health minister, acting minister of labor and social affairs, and head of Iraq's Child Care Commission, left for Tunis today at the head of a delegation that will attend a conference on child care, development, and protection, scheduled to begin on Tuesday [17 November]. [passage omitted]

Security Situation in South Lebanon Reported

3 'Terrorists' Killed

TA1811165292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Three terrorists were killed in southern Lebanon over the last 24 hours. Two terrorists were killed in the al-Nabatiyah region from IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] artillery fire, which lasted for about eight hours. Quiet is now prevailing in the region. In the eastern sector, in the Sujud area, a terrorist was killed by IDF and SLA soldiers' fire yesterday. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the terrorist was a Hizbullah member. [passage omitted]

Nagalese UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] soldiers yesterday dismantled two Katyushas southwest of Tyre. The Katyusha rockets were directed at Israel. UN sources told our correspondent Yo'av Aviv that a routine Nagalese soldiers' patrol discovered the Katyushas and safely dismantled them. An automatic mechanism which was timed to launch the rockets an hour after their discovery was attached to the rockets.

IDF Soldier Wounded

TA1811174492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Report by army affairs correspondent Kuvmola Menashe]

[Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has just released for publication that an IDF soldier was critically wounded today in a clash with terrorists in the eastern sector of the security zone in southern Lebanon. Two terrorists were killed in the clash. Light weapons fire and RPG's [rocket-propelled grenades] were directed at an IDF post this morning. The IDF soldiers returned fire at the sources of firing and launched searches. An IDF soldier was severely wounded in the course of the ensuing exchanges of fire and evacuated to the Rambam hospital in Haifa. Two bombs and several mines were discovered in searches in the area. [passage omitted]

Rabin Comments on Situation

TA1811212292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said this evening that today's events in Lebanon do not indicate a rise in tension in the north but rather that the struggle against Hizbullah continues. Mr. Rabin believes that the firing of Katyusha rockets at the settlements of the north has stopped and will not be renewed.

Mr. Rabin made the remarks to our correspondent Ron Nesi'el after delivering a speech at the peace research institute at the Tel Aviv University. In the lecture, the prime minister criticized Syria for allowing Hizbullah to operate in Lebanon while holding peace negotiations. Mr. Rabin reiterated his stand that there will be a price to pay for peace with Syria, meaning that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will have to withdraw to secure and recognized borders when full peace is made with Damascus.

Referring to the Washington peace talks, the prime minister said that progress was made in them, but not yet a breakthrough.

Rabin Expects U.S. To Intervene If Talks Stall

TA1911005292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the price of peace with Syria is a withdrawal by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to secure and recognized borders. Rabin said the borders will be determined in negotiations after Syria makes clear it supports secure boundaries, diplomatic ties, and normalization. Speaking at Tel Aviv University last night, Prime Minister Rabin also said that if there is no significant progress in the peace talks within at least six months, he would expect help from the new administration in Washington.

[Begin Rabin recording] We are ready to continue. December? December. I don't believe that the Arab countries, Arab delegations, will be ready—let's put it in a nice way—to make concessions to an administration that will end its term on 20 January, and not, to give them to the administration that will be in power at least for four years. I hope that there will be quick adjustment that will not create a too-long interregnum in the input of the United States to the peace negotiations. What should be their role? I have to be careful to say so; it might sound as advice to the new administration. I believe, first, to leave room of maneuverability to both sides, to create conditions and atmosphere that will encourage them to peace negotiations. If in six months or more it will not happen, then there might be other ways or means, but I will not discuss them now, and when we'll meet in six or nine months after the new administration will assume its responsibilities I'll be ready to say. [end recording]

Prime Minister Rabin, addressing the inaugural conference of the Tami Stein Center for Peace Research at Tel Aviv University last night.

'Arafat Says Talks Impossible Unless 242 Accepted

TA1811164492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] It is impossible to conduct the peace talks unless the principles of UN Resolution 242 have been accepted by Israel and are not open to interpretation. These remarks were made by PLO head Yasir 'Arafat in the first interview with an Israeli reporter of THE JERUSALEM REPORT. 'Arafat also rejects the idea of holding elections for an administrative council in the territories. Gil Yerushalmi has more details:

Speaking from his office in Tunis, 'Arafat for the first time expresses to an Israeli reporter his declared and uncompromising stands regarding the political negotiations: A precondition for their existence is a total Israeli acceptance of UN Resolution 242. This is the framework of and the basis for any negotiations. No clause of the agenda—police authorities, taxation, or water problems—could be discussed if the principle of withdrawal from the territories for the establishment of an independent state does not become self-evident, 'Arafat says. 'Arafat complains that Israel is willing to talk to Syria about withdrawal from the Golan Heights, while not implementing the same principle in the negotiations with the Palestinians.

'Arafat also determinately rejects the plan for general elections for the administrative council in the territories. According to him, the body to be established should have real legislative authorities or it will have no value. In any event, the Palestinians will refuse to cooperate in elections for an administrative council.

'Arafat's remarks to THE JERUSALEM REPORT perhaps provide a true expression of the starting point for the negotiations, before the Madrid conference. Nevertheless, if we examine the facts as they appear in the ongoing peace talks in Washington, it is apparent that there are cracks in these stands. The voice coming from Tunis is not necessarily similar to that sounded around the negotiating table in Washington, where the talks evolve around compromise and practical discussions, in an attempt to overcome the hurdles of the principles of UN Resolution 242.

German Foreign Minister Kinkel Continues Visit

Holds News Conference

TA1811171892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] The world will not come to an end if I do not meet the Palestinians, visiting German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel told a news conference today. Kinkel also said that he has no intention of meeting with PLO members in Tunis. Our correspondent Yaron Ben-'Ami reports:

[Begin Ben-'Ami recording] Sitting very stiff, unemotional, and slightly removed, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel addressed a news conference and said everything he was expected to say. The meetings with Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres were good. Yes, he is very concerned by the riots against foreigners in Germany and would like to examine what preemptive steps could be taken in this regard. Germany wants to examine ways through which it could make a contribution to the multilateral process.

Kinkel was unusually determined and outspoken on one point. The representatives of the Palestinians announced that they will not meet him during his visit to Israel. He was asked whether, in view of the above, he will meet PLO men in Tunis, where he will be going soon. No, Kinkel replied, I have already stated that I am willing to talk to the Palestinians here, but not with PLO men in Tunis. Incidentally, Kinkel said, it seems to me that it is in the Palestinians' interest to meet with me, and I am at their disposal. If, however, we will not meet, the world will not come to an end.

Another charged issue raised at the news conference was the request of the families of the 11 athletes who were murdered in the Munich Olympics to meet with Kinkel, in view of what they claim to be new evidence. There was some embarrassment with regard to the German treatment of the issue so far, and Kinkel eventually announced that he will review the new documents today and decide on his next step later. [end recording]

Our political correspondent Natan Guttman has more details about the Kinkel-Peres meeting today.

[Begin Guttman recording] As foreign minister, I am ashamed of the expressions of racism and xenophobia in Germany today, German Foreign Minister Kinkel told his Israeli counterpart Peres in their meeting in Jerusalem. Kinkel wished to start his discussion with Peres on the issue of the riots against foreigners in Germany. There is no justification for such acts, he said, but there is no need for new legislation on the issue. The current law is good enough to deal with the problem; it only has to be implemented against the rioters, Kinkel said.

As for political issues, the German foreign minister promised to support Israel on the new contract it wants to sign with the EC and on changing Israel's UN status. [end recording]

Speaks at Dinner With Peres

LD1811190992 Berlin DDP in German 1700 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Bonn (DDP)—In the words of Federal Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, unified Germany will continue to support the security and viability of Israel. What Germany did in the past to its own Jewish fellow citizens and European Jews had "molded the conscience and ethics of the Federal Republic," Kinkel said in a speech at a dinner today attended by his Israeli counterpart Shimon Peres. The speech was published in Bonn.

In view of the recent desecration of Jewish cemeteries and memorials, Kinkel assured his hosts that the police and justice authorities of the Federal Republic are using all the means at their disposal to act against the culprits. The roots of the violence must be uncovered: "We owe it to the world and even more to ourselves to conduct an intensive examination of that violence now."

Discusses Ties With Rabin

TA1811190592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel ended his talks in Israel early this evening in a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the latter's office in Jerusalem. Tomorrow the guest will leave for Tunis, and he has announced that he does not intend to meet with PLO representatives there. In reaction, one of the Palestinian leaders in the territories stated that his people will not accept Minister Kinkel's proposal for a meeting with them. Our correspondent Dan Eldad followed Minister Kinkel's talks and filed this report:

[Begin recording] [Eldad] One of the expectations in Israel from the talks with the German minister was an increase in German involvement in the multilateral talks on the Middle East. At his news conference, I asked Minister Kinkel whether a German decision on the subject was made during his visit here.

[Kinkel's remarks in German, followed by Eldad's translation] I expressed my consent that Germany will comply with Israel's request, Kinkel said, and we will try to help it as much as we can in these talks. The details will now be discussed between Asher Ben-Natan, former ambassador to Germany, and (Castrup), an assistant to the German foreign minister. The water problem is one of the issues on which Germany will extend aid to Israel. [end recording]

After the news conference, the visiting minister conferred with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Kinkel expressed special interest in Syria and its positions regarding a solution to the Middle East conflict. Rabin said here that in his opinion al-Asad has not yet made a step that will convince both nations that he wants to reach peace with Israel. At the same time, Rabin emphasized, we have embarked on an irrevocable path. Rabin emphasized the great importance Israel attaches to a speedy implementation of the legislation against the Arab boycott in Germany. Kinkel promised that the implementation of the legislation will not be delayed any longer. [end recording]

Joint Statement Issued

TA1910013092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] The German Government will encourage German firms to invest in Israel and will launch negotiations with Israel on measures to encourage investment. A joint statement issued in Jerusalem yesterday to sum up Foreign Minister Kinkel's visit here said Israel's special envoy Asher Ben-Natan will meet with Bonn's deputy foreign minister on German aid for immigrant absorption in Israel. The Germans also accepted Foreign Minister Peres' request to extend by six months, to 30 June, the deadline for presenting applications for reparations.

German Chief of Staff Visits Holocaust Memorial

TA1711080592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] The chief of the General Staff of the German Armed Forces, General Klaus Naumann, visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem last night, accompanied by the chief of staff, Lieutenant General Ehud Barag. Following the visit, Naumann was asked about the rising incidents of anti-Semitism reported in the German Armed Forces.

[Begin Naumann recording] Without trying to belittle anything at all, one should point to the fact that what happened in the German Armed Forces are 24 incidents in a period of 10 months, among more than 400,000 young people. That is by no means an alarming sign, and what we did when I got knowledge of the first four incidents in October last year, I issued a very clear order to all the commanders, down to the company level, to talk to every individual soldier and to tell them that the tolerance of other views, of other races, of other religions is one of the cores of democracy—the democracy we are about to defend. [end recording]

Proposes Soldier Training

TA1810071092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] The visiting German chief of staff has proposed that Israel employ its military knowhow to train German infantry soldiers. During a tour of an armored force base in southern Israel yesterday, Lieutenant General Klaus Naumann said he believes that German soldiers should serve in UN peace-keeping forces. During his visit to the base, Gen. Naumann was invited to drive a tank and had the opportunity to fire a missile.

Holds News Conference

TA1911120392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] General Klaus Naumann, the German chief of staff, left Israel today at the end of a five-day official visit. It was the first visit ever by a German chief of staff, and before leaving, Gen. Naumann said military contacts would continue, mainly in the field of sophisticated technology. Military correspondent Alan Ben-'Ami reports from the German commander's news conference:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] The German chief of staff said both countries have benefited for many years from the exchange of information on military technology, and he was sure that Germany will seek to boost its military exports from Israel.

[Naumann] In this respect it was possible really to share findings which could be transformed into decisions—individual decisions—on the armaments of both of our nations, and in this respect I think we cooperated and we will continue to cooperate.

[Ben-'Ami] Asked what he saw as a possible threat to peace and stability in the Middle East, Gen. Naumann pointed to the repercussions of the breakup of the USSR as one area that needs careful watching.

[Naumann] We try to share our mutual assessments on this situation in order to enable our respective governments to come to clear assessments what one should do for the future in order to prevent conflicts.

[Ben-'Ami] He sharply denied reports that German firms are helping countries in this region to develop chemical or nuclear weaponry.

[Naumann] If I had got any names and any precise indication, I told my Israeli partners that we will take action, but to say just in a more general way, we have rumors, that doesn't help us. So before we start with general accusations, I would really ask those who try to play these games with Germany to be more specific and precise. Then we will take action.

[Ben-'Ami] As to the spread of neo-Nazism, Gen. Naumann said Germany's Armed Forces are making a determined effort to counter this among its ranks.

[Naumann] I can tell you that right from the outset that I have learned about the first events on attitudes towards foreigners in the German Armed Forces. Just a fortnight after I had taken office, I issued an order, you would say, that all commanders down to the company and battle level should educate their soldiers to stop this. [end recording]

Rabin Calls Mubarak on Anniversary of al-Sadat Visit

TA191108Z292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin talked on the telephone this morning with the Egyptian president on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of President al-Sadat's visit to Israel. Mr. Rabin told President Mubarak that the current peace talks in Washington can lead to only one thing in the future: peace. President Mubarak said that Egypt is doing everything it can to expand the peace circle and sent greetings to the prime minister and the State of Israel.

Deputy Defense Minister Comments on Current Issues

NC1811154092 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 Nov 92 p 5

[Interview with Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur by correspondent Amirah Hasan; place, date not given]

[Text] [Hasan] Following Bill Clinton's election, what are the new Israeli demands to maintain Israel's military superiority and what military and defensive aid is it seeking?

[Gur] Security relations with the United States have been excellent since Yitzhaq Rabin became prime minister of Israel. Relations between the U.S. President and the Israeli prime minister have become stronger and direct. There is complete and frank coordination with the Pentagon. Following Clinton's election, I do not believe we need drastic steps by the new U.S. President, especially after Clinton's statements that he will follow the policy of the Republican administration. As for the security ministry [as published], there are no problems with the United States.

[Hasan] Has the Israeli Defense Ministry started to study who the next U.S. secretary of defense will be and whether he will be pro-Israel?

[Gur] Past experience has shown that expectations are not correct. The reality is always different. We have nothing to do with this issue and what Clinton decides is his own affair, but the people close to Clinton are well known.

[Hasan] Do you expect Clinton's foreign policy to be different from that of Bush?

[Gur] We do not want to suggest anything to the Americans. We don't deny that the peace talks that started in the Madrid conference, the resulting positive and negative developments, and the continuing negotiations with the Syrian, Jordanian, Palestinian, and Lebanese sides would not have continued without direct U.S. intervention. I do not think we will need a change or a situation that will require the direct intervention of the new U.S. president, but if Clinton continues with his objective support of the peace talks process—as has been the case so far... [ellipsis and sentence as published] I believe he will do this first.

[Hasan] Do you believe that increasing security problems in the occupied territories were caused by an Israeli security minister not being appointed? Why weren't you appointed security minister instead of deputy defense minister?

[Gur] The settlers' demonstrations have nothing to do with my not being appointed security minister. The settlers are claiming this, but they have opposed the peace process from the start. They believe it will not have positive results and that it will lead to a Palestinian state being established. This is why they have declared war on Rabin's policy. The demonstrations have nothing to do with Rabin taking over the premiership and the security ministry. They are demonstrations against autonomy, the possibility of withdrawal from the Golan, and against the peace talks. Rabin's presence in these two posts undoubtedly helps him to be in charge of issues in the peace process.

[Hasan] What are your duties as deputy defense minister?

[Gur] There is no specific definition of the deputy's task. The minister is responsible and the deputy helps him to

do things like supervise the Army's training and exercises, visit the occupied territories, inspect the settlers' problems, and discuss the Army's development with its chiefs of staff. I was a chief of staff so I have a good knowledge of Army affairs. I oppose authority being defined.

[Hasan] Will the Defense Ministry remain vacant until the Tzomet movement enters the government?

[Gur] That's what the media is claiming. Rabin and I are working on the sectors of industry, Army, and the occupied territories.

[Hasan] The government has a list of priorities. What are the Defense Ministry's?

[Gur] Talk about changing priorities in the Defense Ministry does not include security, because there has been a consensus on this issue for years. As prime minister, Yitzhaq Rabin approved all the state's economic plans, reducing the Defense Ministry's budget by 200 million shekels. We have not decided where to make these reductions. Touching the military industries will lead to large-scale unemployment. The conflict facing the defense minister is how to reduce the Defense Ministry's budget without affecting the military industries, while continuing to develop the area technologically. We have not found the solution, but we will do so through consultations. Because Army programs and some of the military industries are secret, this will not be published in the media.

[Hasan] Before the U.S. election, the U.S. Administration asked Israel not to escalate the situation in Lebanon. With the U.S. election over, does Israel intend to enlarge the security strip in south Lebanon?

[Gur] There is no intention or plan to enlarge the security strip. Rabin has declared this and we do not wish to escalate the tension in Lebanon.

[Hasan] You accuse Lebanon of not being in control of events on its territory. Why are you negotiating with it?

[Gur] Lebanon is a sovereign state, but is under Syrian influence now. We hope this will end. I confirm that we do not have any ambitions on Lebanon's territories and we will return to the international borders. We will withdraw when we see the Lebanese Army can control the situation. This will not be achieved without peace.

[Hasan] What are the Defense Ministry's plans for arms control. What are your proposals for the Arab parties?

[Gur] The Arab countries have made us understand that peace is a condition for arms control. We are looking toward resolving other issues, such as water, tourism, territories, and airports, as encouraging factors for the arms control process.

[Hasan] Water, tourism, and territories are all easier than arms control. What is the Israeli concept of arms control?

[Gur] We say that geographically and demographically, Israel is a small country compared with the Arab world. The Arabs should discuss these issues in a relative way. The basic point is that the Arab world should understand Israel must keep defensive means when there is peace.

[Hasan] Do you mean nuclear weapons?

[Gur] We have never spoken about nuclear weapons.

[Hasan] Nonconventional weapons?

[Gur] Of course there should be nonconventional weapons. Syria, for example, has 5,000 tanks and, when we talk about peace and security, this number should not exceed 1,500 tanks.

[Hasan] Is there an agreement with Egypt on this?

[Gur] No. We proposed during the negotiations with Egypt that it limit its Army. It refused. There is no treaty with Egypt today on weapons and arms control. Egypt is leading the Arab countries in raising the issue of nuclear weapons, but most countries do not support this Egyptian stand.

[Hasan] Does Israel still refuse to sign the treaty on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons?

[Gur] I do not know whether we will agree to sign it or not. Israel must strengthen its security even when there is peace. The Arabs should understand the difference between our strength and theirs. When they do, there can be progress in several fields. Israel has declared its willingness to discuss chemical and biological weapons, but the nuclear weapons issue is more complicated. Israel will not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons to the region. We have information that some Arab and Islamic countries possess nuclear weapons. Israel will not refuse to enter into agreements on any type of weapon when there is a clear peace.

[Hasan] Previously you did not believe peace was possible with Egypt, because you did not trust the Egyptians. Do you have the same feelings toward the Syrians?

[Gur] We should differentiate between what I believed before and after the late President al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. I think the Syrians have concluded that there will be no solution except through negotiations. This is the truth behind the strategic change in Syria's stand. They are negotiating seriously, not out of love for Israel, but because of the changes in the conditions.

[Hasan] Has there been a change in Israeli Army firing orders inside the occupied territories?

[Gur] No.

[Hasan] Not even with the new government and the peace talks?

[Gur] The change of government has no impact on this issue. We are serious in the peace talks and will combat the resistance by any means.

[Hasan] Is what we heard about developing salt pellets [rasas al-malh], as a new method to face the intifadah, true?

[Gur] This is the first time I have heard this.

[Hasan] How can the Palestinians trust you and your servicemen about peace while you continue to give orders to fire?

[Gur] We are advancing politically, which is a true change, but our policy on terrorism stands.

[Hasan] How do you explain Israeli Army special units donning Palestinian clothes to kill intifadah activists among the Palestinians?

[Gur] We are fighting terrorism by all methods and means. These intifadah activists have the support of the Palestinians inside the occupied territories so we must infiltrate them. These units act on intelligence information and I have seen and admired their work. These troops do not decide who to kill, but only carry out actions on killers of Jews or Arabs. There may be mistakes, but they are not deliberate. To those among the Palestinians who blame us, we say: You are protecting intifadah activists and we will not stop these units' work.

[Hasan] Aren't there ministers in your government who describe the work of these special units as immoral?

[Gur] I have fought in several wars so I know what is moral and what is war. Whoever says this about the work of these units does not understand anything about the subject. We will not change this policy.

[Hasan] Will these units remain even during the autonomy period?

[Gur] This depends on the autonomy agreement. We have stated from the start that foreign policy and security will stay in our hands until we examine them later.

[Hasan] Amnesty International has accused Israel of arresting and murdering suspects. What is your reply?

[Gur] I have had problems before with this organization's reports. The problem is that they do not realize the reality in which we work.

[Hasan] What will you do about human rights in the occupied territories, particularly with the new U.S. President sensitive about this topic?

[Gur] The Palestinians in the occupied territories enjoy more freedom and rights than in any other part of the world, but war is war. The intifadah is a war in the full sense of the word, a war in which innocent Israelis are killed. I do not know how the new U.S. Administration will do, but I believe this subject will not be central.

[Hasan] Do you believe Israel will withdraw from the Golan in exchange for a full peace with Israel, as is the case with Egypt now?

[Gur] Rabin said it clearly: We will not begin talking about the issue of territories until the Syrians explain what kind of peace they want and it is clear to us that they are talking about a real and comprehensive peace.

[Hasan] What, in your opinion, will be the security scenario with Syria?

[Gur] It all depends on the Syrian stand on the comprehensive peace with Israel.

[Hasan] In terms of security, what do you want from Syria?

[Gur] To ensure that Syria will not one day lead a huge army across the border and attack us.

Arrests Made in Rioting Outside U.S. Consulate

TA1411211492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Seven Kahh members were arrested for rioting outside the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem during a procession on the first anniversary of Me'ir Kahana's death. Our correspondent Rina Matzliah reports that the detainees, including Kahana's son, are being interrogated by the police, and will apparently not be released until tomorrow morning. The other members of the demonstration dispersed and the area is now quiet.

IDF Uses Antitank Missiles To Destroy Houses

TA1611113092 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Nov 92 p 7

[Report by Sulayman al-Shafi'i, Aharon Klein, Yoram Binur, and Shlomo Dror]

[Excerpts] Nine houses in the Ma'an neighborhood, east of Khan Yunis, have been shelled with antitank missiles and completely destroyed, local residents reported yesterday. According to them, a large Army force accompanied by a helicopter arrived at the neighborhood on 13 November at 0300 GMT. [passage omitted]

Eyewitnesses reported that the houses were shelled from a gun placed on one of the rooftops and that the helicopter fired missiles at the houses as well. The inhabitants of the houses are now residing in tents supplied by the International Red Cross. [passage omitted]

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported in response: "The security forces' operations are aimed at capturing dangerous fugitives, some of whom are armed. The security forces always have and will take every measure to safeguard soldiers, while avoiding hurting innocent people. They followed this procedure during the activity in question activity as well."

The decision to fire antitank missiles at houses in which armed fugitives reside came in the wake of incidents in which IDF troops suffered casualties after breaking into houses in which armed fugitives were present. According

to military sources, authorization to fire antitank missiles is given by senior Army officers only after it has been made absolutely certain that there are no innocent people in the houses.

The fourth anniversary of the Palestinian declaration of independence was marked with protest demonstrations and marches in the territories yesterday. In the Gaza Strip, 18 people were injured in these marches.

Late last night, several shots were fired at an IDF post in downtown Gaza. Unidentified assailants fired automatic weapons at the post and fled. No one was hurt.

Hundreds of demonstrators marched on al-Sultan Sulayman Street in Jerusalem yesterday. A Border Police patrol was pelted with rocks in the Ra's al-'Amud neighborhood of East Jerusalem. In Jerusalem's Old City, firecrackers were thrown at the guard of the 'Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva.

A firebomb was thrown at a No. 25 bus in the Neve Ya'aqov neighborhood in Jerusalem. The bottle exploded on the street. Four cars were torched in various parts of the city last night. [passage omitted]

Ministry Bans Weapons Sales to Areas of Tension

TA1711123692 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Nov 92 p A1

[Report by defense affairs correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] Last year Israel rejected requests from some CIS republics to purchase arms and clarified that it will not supply weapons to war-torn regions or areas of internal strife.

The Defense Ministry has curtailed weapons exports to areas of tension and has refused to permit the sale of arms to countries under a UN embargo, such as Yugoslavia, and to countries embroiled in civil wars between the government and rebel organizations; countries where the government has difficulty controlling various groups, such as Georgia; or countries involved in a violent dispute, such as Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Israeli sources claim that Armenian representatives came to Israel seeking to buy various weapons and military equipment, but the Foreign and Defense Ministries refused to authorize the deal.

HA'ARETZ correspondent Yo'av Qarni, who visited the Azerbaijani capital of Baku two months ago, heard claims by sources in Russia, the Caucasus, and Turkey that Israeli military equipment, including Stinger antiaircraft shoulder missiles and communications systems, had been sold to Azerbaijan and had already reached their destination.

Israeli sources dismissed these claims as ridiculous. "We would not get involved in the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan," they said. The export of Stinger missiles from Israel also requires a license from the U.S. Government.

In the past, Israel has been accused of indiscriminate arms exports to oppressive regimes and to countries at war. For example, Israeli military advisers operated in Central America during the 1980's.

Certain officials in the defense establishment criticized the policy of banning exports to areas of tension. These critics believe that the current slump in the international arms market does not allow Israel to turn down countries in conflict, which are in need of military equipment. "We must not bow to American pressure," the officials said.

Ultraorthodox Protest Jerusalem Archaeological Dig

TA1811055692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Yesterday's disturbances by haredi orthodox residents of Jerusalem continued into the night. In Me'a She'arim, near Sabbath Square, stones were thrown at policemen, and one border policeman was injured. There was also an attempt to block a road, but police prevented it. Jerusalem police are saying the disturbances were planned in advance. They said the violence was serious and aimed specifically at police. Passers-by also fell victim to the assaults. Police officials told our reporter that police acted with restraint and refrained from using such called-for measures as billy clubs and tear gas.

Interior Minister Arye Der'i, however, says police behaved brutally toward demonstrators whom, he said, were sent to protest by the great rabbinical leaders of Israel. Der'i called for an investigation into the behavior of police in dispersing the demonstrations. Last night Der'i asked Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to intervene on the issue of the archaeological dig. Der'i urged Rabin to instruct ministers involved with the matter to refrain from steps which could incite members of the haredi community. Der'i asked that all work at the archaeological site, where ancient burial caves have been found and which is slated to become a road, be frozen until further clarification.

Vandals last night desecrated the grave of Menahem Begin on the Mount of Olives. Anonymous callers phoned Qol Yisra'el last night and said the vandalism was in retaliation for the harm done to graves in French Hill. Our police reporter passed the information on to police, who went to the site and found a black swastika painted on the grave of Menahem Begin.

Witness Reportedly 'Forced' To Testify in Deputies' Trial

NC1911103092 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 14 Nov 92 p 11

[Text] The day before yesterday King Husayn decided that on his 57th birthday, 14 November, he would pardon two Jordanian Parliament deputies, Layth Shubaylat and Ya'qub Qirrish, within the framework of a comprehensive pardon that covered 140 prisoners. King Husayn's decision was not a surprise; the surprise was the timing of the pardon, which was issued the day after a military court sentenced the two Islamist deputies to 20 years imprisonment after finding them guilty of forming an illegal organization (Islamic Mobilization Youth) and possessing weapons. The charge of attempting to overthrow the regime was dropped.

The timing indicates that everything was planned in advance. The military court convicted the two deputies before the king's birthday, which is usually when the king pardons prisoners. Thus, the issue would not be turned into a confrontation with the Islamists in Jordan, a confrontation that everybody wanted to avoid.

It is known that the trial has caused wide resentment among the Jordanian people and parties, especially the Islamic current, which felt like the target of the issue, given its stand on certain political developments.

However, sources of the Islamic current said that the quick pardon decision did not stem from a desire to avoid a confrontation but rather an official attempt to avoid further scandals surrounding the trial. The most significant scandal is that of a witness who testified in court that he handed Shubaylat a sum of money. It was later discovered that this witness was an Iraqi, whom Jordanian intelligence forced to testify as a Syrian citizen until he told the whole truth in a deposition he made at a law office in Munich.

AL-SAFIR has obtained a full translation of this deposition, the text of which follows:

Translation from German.

Lawyers Kraus and Sevelder [names as published] and Partners.

9-10 Mosten [street name as published] Street.

8000 Munich 19.

Legally valid deposition.

I make this legally valid deposition after being notified that I would face criminal proceedings if I gave incorrect or incomplete information and after also being notified that this written deposition could be used before a German or foreign court.

1. Personal status:

Name: 'Ali Shukarshi.

Date of birth: 1 January 1945.

Place of birth: al-Nasiriyah.

Profession: Car dealer.

Marital status: Married, two sons.

Nationality: German.

2. Content of the deposition:

On 8 October 1992 I received a telephone call from Amman from a person named Hafiz Amin, who said he was a royal officer at King Husayn's palace in Amman. He told me that the king wanted to meet me. In reply to my query, Amin said that he had heard from Dr. Ghalib that I was in Iran and that he had a photo of a person I would recognize. Because of this, I had to go to Amman to see the photo and tell the king whether I knew the man.

I was very upset. I asked him again how he knew me and my telephone number. He repeated that he had obtained my name from a friend of mine.

In the evening, Amin called me again and told me that a first class air ticket in my name would be ready at the Royal Jordanian Airlines office. He also told me that my stay in Amman would last two or three days, after which I could happily return to Germany. I agreed, provided I did not have to leave tomorrow.

On 13 October 1992, I flew from Munich to Frankfurt en route to Amman. I got the Munich-Frankfurt-Amman ticket from the airline's office at Munich airport. I boarded the plane on my way to Amman. A famous German nuclear physicist (short, fat, with a mustache) sat near me. I recognized him from television programs, because he had been in Baghdad several times during the Gulf war.

Suddenly, I realized that I had lost my wallet, which I could have left somewhere while doing some shopping. It contained some 18,000 Deutsche marks [DM]. I got off the plane and asked about my wallet at the stolen items department and the Royal Jordanian Airlines' office. While I was at the Royal Jordanian Airlines' office, a certain Abu-Haytham, whom I did not know and who was obviously a high-ranking official at the royal palace or the prime minister's office, happened to call the airline office to ask whether I had really left for Amman. The secretary told him that I was still in Frankfurt and gave me the telephone to speak with him. I told him that I had lost my wallet. He said that this was not important and I would be compensated for my lost money and that I should leave for Amman immediately.

I did not want to go to Amman with no money, so I decided to return to Munich. In the evening, Amin contacted me in Munich and asked why I had not gone to Amman. I told him. He said that I should leave for Amman the next day, because it was a very important matter. He said he swore on the head of King Husayn

that I would return immediately to Germany, that my passport would not be stamped, and that I would not face any problems in Jordan. Here I must point out that such an oath for a Middle Easterner is a very serious matter.

The next day, 14 October 1992, I traveled again to Frankfurt to catch a flight to Jordan. Mr. Amin was very nervous and was constantly asking at the Royal Jordanian counter whether I had actually left for Amman, which I was later informed of in Amman.

When I arrived in Amman, I was met by a thin bald man of about 50 with a white moustache and blue eyes. I thought he was Mr. Amin, but he told me that Mr. Amin was on his way to the airport. Many men with walkie-talkies accompanied me to the arrivals lounge where VIP's are received and they treated me very well. We then left the airport. About 10 minutes later, a Mercedes drove up with Mr. Muhammad Hijazi, the public prosecutor, inside. This became evident to me later on. Mr. Abu-Hashim, a member of Jordanian intelligence, was also in the car. Both were wearing civilian clothes.

They took me to a villa in an area called Suwaylih, some distance from Amman. On one of the tables inside the villa there were two photo albums, one red, the other black. One contained pictures of Layth Shubaylat and Mr. Qirrish. They asked me whether I knew these two people, and I said that I did not. After that, everyone took turns asking me questions and insisted that I look at the pictures carefully and try to remember whether I knew them or if I had met them coincidentally in Tehran. I repeatedly answered that I did not know these people and had never met them in my life.

Because of my consistent and clear answers, Abu-Hashim changed the subject suddenly and accused me of being of Iraqi origin and opposed to Saddam Husayn, therefore collaborating with Iraqi opposition. Here I realized that I had fallen into a trap and that I had two options: either do what they want me to in the hopes of returning to my family in Germany, or never going back. Here I must point out that when Mr. Amin spoke to me over the telephone in Munich, he swore on King Husayn's life. I realized now that this pledge was false. As I very well know, when a Middle Easterner makes such a false promise, he is usually ready to do anything else, regardless of whether his lies are found out. Their lies became obvious since I was not going to meet King Husayn as they promised on the phone in Munich.

Every time I thought of my wife and children, I became more and more frightened. I thought of running away, but I soon gave up the idea because I could not find an appropriate opportunity to do so. Therefore, I had no choice but to do what they asked me to.

I promised to do what they wanted. The discussion ended for the time being, to be resumed in the evening.

In the evening, they picked me up and took me to the military command headquarters, where they escorted me to Mr. Hafiz Amin's room. They told me that Judge Yusuf Fa'uri would arrive soon. In about 10 minutes, Mr. Fa'uri arrived in civilian clothes. In addition to myself and Mr. Fa'uri, there were also Mr. Fafiz Amin, Mr. Muhammad Hijazi, Abu-Hashim, and two other people in military uniform. The judge, the public prosecutor, and the intelligence officer discussed the kind of passport they would give me.

They agreed to give me a Syrian passport proving that I was born in the Syrian village of Dayr al-Zawr, which is close to the Iraqi border. They chose this village because of my Iraqi accent so that the lawyers would not doubt my statements. They asked me to use classical Arabic all the time. They also discussed the testimony I was supposed to make as a witness in court. They decided that I should testify that I received DM300,000 from Iran to give to Mr. Layth Shubaylat. They also decided that I should grow a moustache and wear Arab clothing. Here the discussion on this topic ended.

The next day they took me to Intelligence headquarters, where I met two men. One was short, fat, and had a moustache, and the other was six-feet tall with a fair complexion. The two men had a case containing a cosmetics set. They took a fake beard and mustache from the case and fitted them on me. Then they took some pictures. One asked the photographer not to show chairs or doors in the picture, only the background wall. They took approximately six pictures of me, not in the Arab outfit but in a dark jacket they gave me. After that, they took me back to the villa for lunch.

Shortly afterward, Abu-Haytham came and thanked me for cooperating with them, telling me that they would compensate me for the DM18,000 I lost in Germany and pay me more. I told him that I did not want more than what I spent. At night, we went to the al-Wahah restaurant, where we ate and drank. Among those present were Abu-Hashim, Muhammad Hijazi, and three or four others. After dinner, we returned to the villa where I was staying.

The next day was Friday, a holiday. Before noon, I traveled in an American car to the Dead Sea, where they took some pictures of me. In the afternoon, we returned to the villa, where Abu-Hashim was waiting for me and was a bit irritated because we were late returning to the villa. Then, Abu-Hashim asked me to go over the testimony that I was to make at the courtroom. He said that my testimony would be as follows:

My name is: Yasin Ramadan al-Yasin. Born in Dayr al-Zawr in 1945. I am a merchant. I trade with Syria and Iran. In Iran I met Hosayn Shirazi, a senior official at the Prime Minister's Office in Tehran. Shirazi gave me DM300,000 to give to Shubaylat. I was instructed not to give the money to Shubaylat before he said the following passwords: "My birthday is on Friday."

I was instructed to say that I went to Jabri restaurant in Amman from which I telephoned Abu-Ahmad [not further identified], who said that he would be over in half

an hour. Abu-Ahmad asked how he would recognize me. I told him that I was wearing an Arab shirt and a jacket and that I would wait in front of the restaurant.

I was instructed to say: After a while, Shaybaylat came in a car, and I went with him to his house. He told me the password, and I gave him the DM300,000.

All this is supposed to have happened on 4 April 1992, which was chosen because I traveled to Jordan that day and was unlikely to forget it during the court hearing. I was instructed to say that on 4 April 1992, I flew from Tehran to Damascus and then took the bus to Amman. I was instructed to say that, two days after I gave the money to Shubaylat, Abu-Ahmad gave me two messages to give to Hosayn Shirazi. I was instructed to say that I then flew to Tehran, heard later that Shubaylat was involved in a coup attempt against King Husayn, and returned voluntarily to Amman to testify.

Early on Saturday, they summoned me. They gave me Arab clothes and fitted me with a beard and mustache. Abu-Hashim told me that I should not be afraid and should appear normal during my testimony. He said that the judge and the public prosecutor had been fully briefed, that the judge was the only one who would question me, and that the defense lawyers would not be able to question me except through the judge who, of course, would not allow them to do so.

We then went to the Military Court, where the public prosecutor was waiting for us. They asked me to introduce myself as a witness to the public prosecutor, which I did. Then they took me to the public prosecutor's office, where I had a talk with him. He told me that even he would not recognize me in the outfit I was wearing for the hearing. He then said that he had to leave because the lawyers should not see him with me. Half an hour later, he returned and told me that there would be a slight delay in the hearing, because the defendants had to be brought from two different prisons in Amman. Then, the public prosecutor told me that Layth Shubaylat had arrived, that he was wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved shirt and glasses, had a trimmed beard, and would be the first to appear in the dock.

I was then asked to go to the witness stand, on which a Koran and a Bible were placed. Judge al-Fa'uri asked me to give my name, profession, and marital status. I answered as I had been instructed to in the past few days. He asked to see my passport. I gave him the Syrian passport that I had received that same day. The judge prevented the lawyers from seeing the passport, saying that they had to satisfy themselves with noting the passport's number and date of issue. The judge then asked me if I knew any of the defendants. I said, according to instructions, that I knew Shubaylat. I turned and pointed at Shubaylat. After giving my testimony, the defense lawyers requested a photocopy of my passport to show to the Foreign Ministry and Syrian Embassy in Amman, but the judge denied the request.

An argument ensued between the defense and court. After testifying, I was taken from the courtroom and driven to Intelligence headquarters, where Abu-Hashim welcomed me, kissed me, shook my hand heartily, and thanked me for my testimony. Later, the public prosecutor showed up, kissed me and thanked me profusely. They took the Syrian passport and removed the beard and mustache. They also took the Arab clothing, except the long robe. Then they took me back to the villa where I was staying. There, Hafiz Amin told me that he wanted to travel to Cairo the next day and asked me to accompany him, but I refused. I told him that I wanted to go back to my family.

At 1900 that day, a meeting was arranged with Military Judiciary Director Muhammad Mango, who gave me an alabaster bust of King Husayn and thanked me warmly for my testimony. After that, we went to the al-Tilal al-Sab' restaurant, where we stayed until midnight. They took me back to the villa afterward and left me alone with the servant. I was very anxious and afraid. I begged the servant to call Abu-Hashim and ask him how I would get to the airport. He did so. Abu-Hashim assured me that someone would come the next day to take me to the airport. At 0330, the doorbell rang. At 0500, we went in an American car to the airport, where we had to wait for two individuals who arrived at 0600. They took me to the plane heading to Munich via Frankfurt.

The next day, I telephoned AL-DUSTUR from Munich and asked for the telephone number of the lawyer Ibrahim Bakr. They gave me the number. I telephoned Bakr and told him the whole story. Two hours later, Abu-Hashim called me in Munich and threatened me, saying that he would finish me off and that if he did not the Iraqis or Iranians would. I told him that he could do as he pleased and hung up.

A few days later, I telephoned Shubaylat's family and talked to his daughter. I apologized to her for the testimony I gave in Amman, told her the whole story, and begged her to understand my position. Three hours later, Shubaylat's wife called me and said that she was not calling from home and that she was ready to hear everything I had to say. I told her the entire story and promised to answer any questions.

I hereby testify that I have read the above depositions and that it is all true.

[Dated] Munich, 6 November 1992.

[Signed] 'Ali Shukarbi

King Decorates Military Judiciary, Court Members

JN1811184392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn has conferred royal medals on a number of Jordanian figures in appreciation

of their performance and outstanding efforts in their fields of action and the tasks assigned them. [passage omitted]

In appreciation of the fair legal authority and its distinguished performance, His Majesty King Husayn has conferred royal medals on several men of the Military Judiciary. Jurist Major General Muhammad Nasir Wajih Munqa, director of Military Judiciary, has been granted the Independence Medal of the First Order; Jurist Colonel Hafiz Amin Hafiz al-Nuhasi, assistant military attorney general, has been granted the Independence Medal of the Second Order; Jurist Lieutenant Col. Yusuf 'Abd-al-Jalil al-Fa'uri, president of the State Security Court [SSC], has been granted the Renaissance Medal of the Third Order; Jurist Maj. Subhi Salim al-Hamad al-Mawsa, SSC right-hand member, has been granted the Independence Medal of the Third Order; Jurist Maj. 'Arif Mahmud Salim al-Suyuf, SSC left-hand member, has been granted the Independence Medal of the Third Order; Jurist Maj. Muhawad 'Ali Ibrahim Hijazi, SSC public prosecutor, has been granted the Independence Medal of the Third Order; Jurist Maj. Tayil Muhammad 'Asaf al-Raqqad, SSC public prosecutor, has been granted the Independence Medal of the Third Order.

The medal awarding ceremony was attended Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and Field Marshal Fathi Abu-Talib, head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

U.S. 'Reopening' of Hostage Issue Criticized

NC1811134892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dalloul said today that reopening the case of the Western hostages in Lebanon by pursuing the kidnappers is a cheap decision. Returning to this case shows shortsightedness, he said, adding that the hostage issue is now over. It should be left behind us; pursuing the kidnappers will not be a successful endeavor.

The United States has secretly directed accusations toward a number of terrorists responsible for the kidnapping and killing of American hostages in Lebanon. An unidentified U.S. official was quoted as saying that the accused include those responsible for killing William Buckley, CIA station chief in Beirut, and Colonel Higgins, who worked with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon.

Defense Minister Views Army, Resistance Roles

NC1811115892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Beirut, 18 Nov (MENA)—Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dalloul has reiterated the Lebanese Army's complete readiness to deploy and gain full control in the south and western al-Biqa'. The Lebanese Army is also ready to prevent any side from carrying out military or any other action if Israel withdraws from these areas, he added.

In an exclusive statement to MENA's Beirut correspondent, Dalloul said: We are ready to send two brigades or even more of the Lebanese Army to ensure security and full stability and to fill the military vacuum on the borders with Israel. We will not allow any side to carry out any operation, regardless of its nature, along the borders because we will have an intensive military presence there.

Asked if there is coordination between the Army and Hizbullah's Islamic Resistance in the south, the Lebanese defense minister said that the Islamic Resistance is a Lebanese faction for liberating Lebanon from the Israeli occupation. When this occupation ends, the task of the resistance will end. He stressed that the Lebanese Government reiterates its pledge in this regard.

Dalloul said that the presence of the resistance is linked to the presence of the occupation and its continuation. He added that Lebanon believes that resisting the occupation is a legitimate right that will not be sacrificed, and he noted that Lebanon is in constant contact with all the Lebanese resistance forces.

The Lebanese defense minister described the U.S. and Israeli claims that certain areas are still not under the control of the state's authority and Army as unfair and illogical. He said that the Lebanese Army controls more than 80 percent of Lebanese territory except for areas occupied by Israel in the border strip and part of western al-Biqa'. Dalloul said that the Lebanese Army is even deployed in areas where Syrian forces are present. Let them cite one incident where the Lebanese Government and Army failed to control matters on Lebanese territory, he said. He pointed out that so far the Army has demonstrated efficiency and outstanding discipline and has managed within a specific time to deploy and control the Lebanese areas from east of Sidon in the south to western al-Biqa' since the armed militias were disbanded and the state's property was restored. He said that the Army has also managed to storm areas and confiscate all types of large- and medium-caliber weapons. The Army is now prepared to confront any Israeli attack on the borders, Dalloul said.

Dalloul told the MENA correspondent in Beirut that the territories of south Lebanon will remain open for the liberation of Lebanon's territories but not for an all-out confrontation with Israel. He warned against any attempt by the Israeli forces to invade Lebanon's south and territories, saying that Israel will face much greater losses than it did in 1982. He said that Israel cannot tolerate great human losses because of its political and demographic structure.

Therefore, the Lebanese defense minister ruled out any new Israeli attempt to undertake a military invasion of south Lebanon.

On the possibility of reaching a peace treaty or security arrangement in the south with Israel, Dalloul said that Lebanon can sign a peace treaty or agreement with Israel if it is within the framework of a comprehensive peace treaty between the Arabs and Israel and not a separate agreement. He added that Lebanon would not accept any separate agreement or security arrangements with Israel because they would be at odds with the national stand and with Lebanon's Arab and international status and they would not last long. He said that Israel should not forget the collapse of the 17 May accord because it was a separate agreement that was rejected by the Lebanese people. He added: Israel's leaders should implement Resolution 425 of the international legitimacy instead of asking for a separate peace treaty with Lebanon when they know Lebanon will not sign such a treaty under any circumstances. We declare our commitment to and responsibility for ensuring security and stability in south Lebanon.

Dalloul then asked: Has the Lebanese Army become responsible for Israeli security despite its defensive military and technological arm that can ensure its security without occupying Lebanese territories? He said that Lebanon had not occupied part of Israel's territories to secure its borders but it was Israel that came with its army to occupy our territories under various pretenses. The Palestinian presence was its first excuse. The Palestinians left but Israel stayed. The presence of the militias was its next excuse but when the Lebanese Army deployment was completed it used the presence of the Islamic Resistance as an excuse.

The Lebanese defense minister said that the Israeli clamor about the issue of the security of its borders with Lebanon is a fabricated issue and that what Israel wants is to impose its will on the Lebanese, influence Lebanese political decision, and isolate Lebanon from its pan-Arab role. He added: Whenever signs of security and stability appear and whenever reconstruction and economic development in Lebanon start, Israel exerts pressure and aggression through shelling, raids, and attacks on citizens with bombs and machine guns. He said that Israel has admitted that it began the last attack on south Lebanon, thereby belittling the importance of the Katyusha rockets that were fired on the occupied territories.

Dalbul said that the pressures exerted on Lebanon, its government, and its people do not just come from Israel but from some foreign powers as well. He said that there is an embargo on helping the Lebanese Army and giving it the weapons it needs to boost its fighting capability to confront the repeated Israeli aggression and confront internal security challenges. He noted that the Lebanese Army has not received any aid from the United States or the European countries recently despite its meager resources.

Dalbul said that government officials are deeply interested in the Lebanese Army's armament program. He added: We will continue our contacts with the friendly countries to have this embargo lifted so that the Lebanese Army can play its role in imposing its full control and achieving more security and stability over all Lebanese territories.

On the reasons and excuses for imposing this embargo on the export of weapons to Lebanon, Dalbul said that it is part of the international political pressure on Lebanon to implement three fundamental conditions.

Dalbul revealed these conditions:

1. Lebanon should declare its agreement to participate in the multilateral talks. Lebanon and Syria are refusing to join before progress is made in the bilateral talks between the Arabs and Israel and before agreement on implementing all the international resolutions on Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese and Arab territories.

2. Lebanon should strike at and liquidate Hizballah's Islamic Resistance, halt all the resistance operations, and withdraw all resistance weapons. We turned down this request since the resistance is a legitimate and legal right against the military occupation on our territory in the south.

3. Lebanon should agree that certain countries and financial organizations should impose control and supervision on economic policy and financial expenditures. We rejected this request completely. These countries and international financial institutions should have granted aid and loans for the reconstruction of Lebanon instead of aiming to control the Lebanese state budget.

The Lebanese defense minister also revealed that certain international quarters have informed the Lebanese Government that implementation of the three conditions would throw open the door for military and financial aid to Lebanon. All these conditions have been completely rejected, Dalbul said.

The Lebanese defense minister called on the new U.S. Administration to pressure Israel to implement Resolution 425 which calls for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese territory. He said that the United States, which mobilized the armies of more than 30 states to liberate Kuwait from the treacherous Iraqi occupation and implement the UN resolutions, should likewise try to play the same role and free the occupied Lebanese territories from Israeli occupation.

Dalbul said that the Friendship, Brotherhood, and Coordination Treaty between Lebanon and Syria reflects the distinguished relations between the two countries. Our relations with the brothers in Syria, particularly regarding the redeployment of the Syrian Army in Lebanon is no one's concern. He said that such matters concern the leaders of the two countries. We do not accept interference from any foreign side in these strategic relations, Dalbul added.

In conclusion, Dalbul said that the Lebanese defensive policy is founded on basic factors: There is no security outside legitimacy and the Army is the real guarantee for the security of the homeland and the citizens in all Lebanon, foremost being the south, after the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation.

Bowayz Receives Russian Message on South

NC1911111692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Russian Ambassador in Beirut Gennadiy Bichev conveyed a verbal message from the Russian foreign minister to his Lebanese counterpart Faris Bowayz today. The message deals with the situation in the south. In a statement after the meeting, Bichev reiterated his country's support for al-Ta'if Accord.

[Begin recording] [Bichev] I conveyed to his excellency the minister a message from Kozyrev on recent developments in southern Lebanon.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you expect further escalation in the south or a relaxation?

[Bichev] We believe the situation in the south remains grave, tense, and volatile, as it frequently has been. The primary cause of our deep concern is the fate of the region's people, who are suffering greatly. We are also worried because tension in the south badly affects the efforts being made by the parties involved in the Arab-Israeli talks in Washington—the talks that seek to establish a just and comprehensive Middle East peace. We therefore oppose violence. Violence generates counter violence and it cannot lead to or ensure stability and

security on the Lebanese-Israeli border. We still support the implementation of Resolution 425, which would create the right climate for stability and security in southern Lebanon. [passage omitted] [end recording]

SLA, Israeli Positions Attacked 18 Nov

NC1811164792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Security sources say that gunmen attacked a South Lebanese Army [SLA] position in al-Qantarah in the border strip's central sector this afternoon. The assailants reportedly hit the position with rocket and machine-gun fire. The troops manning the position retaliated with tank and machine-gun fire. They reportedly did not suffer any casualties.

Meanwhile, the National Resistance claimed an operation against the Israelis on 'Ali al-Tahir Hill today, saying that it clashed with an Israeli mechanized patrol, destroying one vehicle, setting fire to a mobile operations room, and inflicting numerous casualties on the Israelis.

Providing a hint at the identity of the group that carried out the attack, the resistance statement said that the operation comes on the 60th anniversary of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party.

[Paris AFP in English at 1459 GMT on 18 November carries a similar report, datelined Marj 'Uyun, that adds the following: "An Israeli soldier was wounded and two anti-Israeli fighters killed Wednesday in an ambushe in southern Lebanon, security sources reported. A pro-Syrian group, the Social National Syrian Party (SNSP), claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement released in Beirut. It said 'several Israelis were killed and wounded' when SNSP fighters fired anti-tank rockets and automatic weapons at an Israeli position in Dubshe, in the central sector of Israel's security zone, without mentioning casualties in its ranks."]

Resistance Attacks Lahd Militia 19 Nov

NC1911123492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] National resistance men attacked a position manned by agent Lahd militias today with antitank rockets and automatic weapons.

Citing security sources in the south, AFP reported the attack, but did not specify the location, saying only that it was inside the occupied border strip and that the operation lasted 30 minutes.

This was the third operation against positions of the Israeli occupation forces and its militia in 48 hours.

Israeli 'Maneuvering' Not Expected To Sway U.S.

JN1811162992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Arab delegations to the Washington talks, which held a coordination meeting yesterday, have agreed that the Israeli side has become even more intransigent and that the talks are still revolving in a vicious cycle and making no progress.

Despite all the efforts made and Arab proposals offered, the Israeli side is still adhering to its security proposals. It sees security not in achieving peace and stability in the region but in continuing the occupation and devouring as much of the Arab territories occupied in 1967 as possible.

Proceeding from this perspective, the Israeli side rejects the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, as well as the land-for-peace principle. This rejection takes the form of strange and distorted interpretations of UN resolutions that are not at all harmonious with UN and other global interpretations. Moreover, the Israeli side is presenting a long series of unacceptable conditions on the nature of peace which blatantly contradict UN Security Council resolutions.

It is clear that Israeli maneuvering at the Washington talks clearly reflects endeavors by Rabin's government to torpedo the bases of these talks by forcing them to deviate from their framework and goals, as well as by dragging Arabs into concluding separate and partial deals that do not lay the foundations for a just, entrenched, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, but instead lay the foundation for new conflicts and eruptions.

Because Syria is playing an effective role in coordinating Arab stands and confronting Israeli proposals with one vision and one strategy, and because Syria is adhering to a just and comprehensive peace on all fronts by refusing to be led into concluding distorted separate deals, Rabin sees no alternative but to assail it and accuse it of obstructing the peace process. It is only natural that Rabin's accusations be rejected. Syria is concerned with peace—its territory is occupied and its rights are usurped. Syria has shown a frank willingness at the highest levels to implement all the provisions of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. In this regard, Syria has submitted well-defined and balanced proposals which have received global appreciation.

The problem with Rabin is similar to that of Shamir. Rabin wants the land as well as peace. He wants most of the Golan. He wants Jerusalem and southern Lebanon. He also wants the West Bank and Gaza Strip to remain under the grip of occupation as a stage for haughty Israeli settlement building.

What kind of peace is Rabin offering? Can peace be established along with occupation, subjugation, oppression, and making landowners homeless and usurping their homes?

Rabin's government is prevaricating, maneuvering, and procrastinating in the hopes that the Zionist lobby in Washington can exert effective pressure on President-elect Clinton's upcoming administration to pull it away from the U.S. commitment to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, on all fronts, based on the land-for-peace principle and the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions.

Despite the support Clinton showed for Israel during the election campaign, we do not believe that his administration will advocate Rabin's stands because that will very simply lead to the collapse of the entire peace process, will undermine U.S. credibility, and shake the principles and concepts of the international community.

Freedom in the world is indivisible. Double standards cannot be used—supporting these people and leaving another people victim to aggression, occupation, and usurpation.

Awaiting a clear U.S. position and in light of arrogant Israeli intransigence, Arabs have no alternative but to close their ranks, unify their stands, adhere to their national constants, and continue with the Washington talks until the end of the road is met.

The world must ultimately discover who stands alongside peace and who stands against it; who supports international legitimacy and who undermines its credibility by violating its principles and resolutions.

Turkish-Iranian 'Rivalry' Causes Concern

PM1911164992 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Nov 92 p5

["Abdallah al-Dardari report: "Damascus Sources Explain Motives Behind Syria's Participation in the Ankara Meeting; Turkish Operations in Northern Iraq Aroused Syrian Fears of Iranian Military Intervention"]

[Text] Damascus—Informed sources in Damascus have told AL-HAYAH that Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shar' took two main preoccupations to the Turkish-Syrian-Iranian conference which concluded in Ankara the day before yesterday. The first was "how to preserve Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and people's unity while Saddam Husayn's regime and foreign ambitions in Iraq continue." The second was how to prevent the complex situation in northern Iraq from becoming a "major regional crisis."

The sources emphasized that Damascus insists on Iraq's unity, rejects any move which might undermine that unity, is unhappy about the West's imposed no-fly zone for Iraqi aircraft in southern Iraq, is suspicious about the recent Iraqi opposition meetings in northern Iraq, and

believes that the Turkish military intervention in that area might result in Iranian military action to prevent Turkey from filling the "Iraqi vacuum" to serve its interests. The sources added that "because of these serious and conflicting factors, Damascus pursues a policy which differentiates between its opinion of the Iraqi regime, which through its actions and blindness to the truth facilitates foreign intervention in Iraq and division of Iraq, and its view of Iraq as a people and a state which has constituted a strategic depth for Syria over the years."

The Syrian sources attribute their rejection of the election of an opposition tripartite leadership in northern Iraq to the following:

"1. The opposition meetings were held in the absence of some essential and effective Iraqi forces; namely, the nonsectarian pan-Arab forces.

"2. The tripartite leadership was formed on a strictly sectarian basis, thus sowing the seeds of more conflicts.

"3. The Western influence, and particularly the U.S.-British influence, on the opposition meetings was widespread, giving rise to fear that the purpose of the meetings was to serve these parties and not the real interests of the Iraqi people."

The sources believe that "Syria's presence in the Iranian-Turkish rivalry over Iraq is necessary as a stabilizing factor in the complex triangle of relations." They confirm that Syria and Iran have agreed at the highest level to preserve Iraq's unity and that Iran told Syria that it is committed to that. They note that the recent Syrian-Turkish security agreement states that both will work not only for the preservation of their own sovereignty and security but also the sovereignty and security of all the states of the region, including Iraq. In its dispute with Turkey over water and borders, Syria did not try to exploit the situation in northern Iraq. When that dispute was at its height, Syria rejected a Greek offer to divert the route of humanitarian aid to northern Iraq from Turkey to Greece and then through to Syrian ports and then by land to northern Iraq. In Syria's view, such a move would "confirm the secessionist nature of the situation in northern Iraq." The sources add that "Syria, which closed its borders with that country for 10 years because of its dispute with Saddam Husayn's regime, is not prepared to open its borders with part of Iraq to promote partition."

Highly placed Syrian sources say that "the fact that Iraq is practically fragmented places on Syria's shoulders the additional responsibility of defending its unity." In addition to these complex issues, Syria takes into consideration the effect Syrian-Turkish-Iranian relations, as far as northern Iraq is concerned, have on Syrian-Turkish-Iraqi relations, as far as sharing the Tigris and Euphrates water is concerned. Damascus coordinates with Baghdad because of the vital importance of the water issue. In doing so both overlook their political differences and take a joint stand toward Ankara.

The Syrian sources believe that the Ankara meeting was "an opportunity to ease the tension and eliminate misunderstanding in order to prevent any miscalculation which might throw the region into a whirlpool of serious regional conflict at a time when efforts are underway to end the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Bangladesh

World Bank President Visits for Consultations

Discusses Aid With Minister

BK1711145892 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Visiting World Bank President Lewis T. Preston has appreciated the overall economic management by the present democratic government and said the World Bank will favorably consider withdrawing its decision on the stay order on disbursement of $300-million assistance for the energy sector. The stay order was introduced during the last regime when the bank imposed certain conditions. The World Bank president exchanged views on different issues with Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman, M. Majidul Haq, minister for agriculture and irrigation, Commerce Minister M.K. Anwwar, Petroleum Minister Dr. Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain, and Jute Minister Humaun Shah this afternoon in the conference room of the Cabinet Division. Emphasizing the need for creating favorable environment for foreign investment and earning the confidence of industrial entrepreneurs, the World Bank president said that foreigners will come forward to invest in this country if they are satisfied with the economic conditions and attitude of labor unions.

Meets With Prime Minister

BK1811030792 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has urged the World Bank to restore aid (?cuts) in consideration of the changed socioeconomic policy of Bangladesh. She made the call when World Bank President Lewis T. Preston called on her in Dhaka yesterday. Begum Zia pleaded for withdrawal of suspension of the World Bank assistance from the power sector. During the talks, the prime minister stressed the need for expansion of power generation and distribution for expediting the country's development process in different sectors. She apprised Mr. Preston about the favorable response from private sector in large numbers following the liberal trade and industrial policy of the present government. Begum Zia also informed him of the measures taken to improve the law and order situation and efficiency in public administration. She requested the World Bank management to be sensitive to the socioeconomic realities of Bangladesh. She said if some conditions are imposed without caring for the real state of situation, it may create a destabilization. In this connection, the prime minister said there has been a favorable change following the restoration of the accountable democratic government in the country. She, however, said it will take more time to reach [words indistinct] level.

During the meeting, Mr. Preston advocated for greater role of private sector and foreign investment. Such measures will create additional jobs. The World Bank president praised the government's measures in health and education sectors.

The meeting was also attended by Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, World Bank Vice President Joseph Wood and Bangladesh Mission Chief [name indistinct].

Commerce Minister Receives PRC Trade Delegation

BK1811022892 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] The visiting five-member Chinese trade delegation held a meeting with Commerce Minister M.K. Anwar in Dhaka yesterday. They discussed various issues relating to promotion of economic and trade relations between the two countries. The commerce minister said China is a great friend of Bangladesh and we can strengthen the bonds of friendship through materializing joint venture industrial projects. The leader of the Chinese delegation, [name indistinct], praised the trade and economic policy of Bangladesh and said the exchange of trade delegations between the two countries will help increase the trade flow between the two friendly countries.

8-Year Export Development Strategy Promoted

BK1111110792 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Bangladesh has set into motion an eight-year export development strategy to boost up the country's exports. The strategy covering a period from this year to 2,000 was approved by the government on 26 October last. The comprehensive long-term plan was drawn up in close consultation with the World Bank. It aims at ensuring an export-led growth of the Bangladesh economy. The strategy offers a host of various policies and fiscal incentives and stipulates extensive procedural reforms, making the export trade more dynamic.

According to official sources in Dhaka, a national committee on exports will shortly be established with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as its chief. The members of the committee will meet at regular intervals to discuss problems of exports and evolve solutions. Ministers of finance, commerce, industry, and planning will be among the members of the committee, while the Commerce Ministry will extend secretarial support. Incentives to exporters will be lucrative. According to sources, all manufacturers, exporters will get the special bonded warehouse facility. Duty drawbacks flat rates will be provided to at least 500 product areas on medium term and eventually to all its product areas. Cash compensation system will be reintroduced for smaller companies.

On the other hand, the government is planning to work out a solid base for an export-led growth. A study on its

potential will be completed in eight months to identify needs for export orientation for organizations handling exports. These organizations include the National Board of Revenue, the Export Promotion Bureau and commercial banks. An amount of $6 million will be spent for developing managerial skills and capability for Bangladeshi exporters. Official sources said an export promotion scheme will be set up to extend technical and financial assistance to firms for undertaking product development, market research, and promotional campaign. Bangladesh will seek assistance of donors for creating an export promotion fund to finance the promotional rights. The Export Promotion Bureau will be given a large measure of autonomy to handle the country's export trade. The legal cell of the bureau is expected to be strengthened to handle the antidumping and terrorist-related cases being faced by Bangladeshi exporters in foreign courts. The Bangladeshi missions abroad will also be assigned with the task of promoting the country's exports.

Bangladesh has in the meantime relaxed its foreign investment rules significantly. That is exactly why a large number of ventures with local and foreign investment have been registered with the Board of Investment. According to officials, the board registered 4,120 industrial units sponsored by local entrepreneurs as well as 89 other joint venture or 100 percent foreign owned units between 1988-89 and 1991-92. The size of investment rose recorded 10,775.93 crore taka in 1990-91 fiscal year when 731 industrial projects were registered with the Board of Investment. Of the projects, 35 are joint venture projects. Foreign investors have in the meantime been responding favorably to revised industrial policy approved by the interministerial meeting recently. It is expected that with more incentives for exporters, prospective entrepreneurs will go to more export-oriented units as planned by the government. There is no other alternative to it, Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman pointed out recently.

Norway To Provide 514.5 Million Taka in Grants

BK1511142592 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Bangladesh will receive about 514.5 million taka as grant from Norway. In this regard, two separate agreements were signed between the two governments in Dhaka today. Under these agreements, an amount of 504 million taka will be spent for expanding primary education program, while 10.5 million taka will be spent for improving the railways telecommunication system. Ayub Qadari, additional secretary in the Economic Resources Division and the resident representative of Norwegian Organization for Relief and Development in Dhaka, (Rodrigue), signed the agreements.

Japan Grants 270 Million Taka for Microwave Links

BK1711160892 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Bangladesh will get 270-million-taka grant from Japan for establishment of microwave links for meteorology. A note of exchange to this effect was signed between Bangladesh and Japan in Dhaka today. The grant will be utilized for purchasing telecommunication and transmission equipment, including construction of radar station building in Cox's Bazar.

Diplomatic Ties Established With Armenia

BK1411161292 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Bangladesh has established diplomatic relations with Armenia. A protocol to this effect was signed in the Armenian capital. The prime minister of Armenia, Arutyunyan, welcoming the establishment of diplomatic ties, expressed the hope that the bilateral relations between Armenia and Bangladesh would expand in the fields of trade and commerce, investment, culture, scientific and technological exchanges.

Iran

Khamenei'i Addresses Basij on Accomplishments

LD1011154092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1106 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamenei'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to Basij force members in Tehran on 18 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. First I welcome the dear Basij [mobilization] brothers and sisters for attending this meeting and this week's ceremonies. I hope that God on high will specially bless you dear and faithful youths. There are several points to make with regard to Basij and [the ceremonies] this week. One point is about the Basij itself. In reality the great Basij of the Iranian nation is representative of the natural and national characteristics of this people. This is because mobilization means that the nation's youth and nation's effective elements, in the difficult fields, feel that with faith and reliance in God, they enjoy a power and strength that allow them to resist enemies. This is the meaning of Basij.

When Basij is analyzed in detail, we see that the field of military conflict, was not the only field of presence for the Basij. It was the will of God that the Basij of the Iranian nation should be able to—in the most difficult field which is the war—show such strength, that even the least believing person would accept the power of the Iranian nation. Throughout the years, the enemies have tried hard to make us believe that we are incapable of

defending ourselves, that we are unable to show our character, that we are unable to play in the global calculations. For at least one and two centuries, colonialism tried to exclude Iranians from comprehensive global activity. When the revolution won, the world understood that the Iranian nation has the power to push aside a corrupt and unjust regime and to stand strongly against the dangers of this act. And then the issue of war came up. Here the character of the Iranian nation was revealed. This was a blessing of Basij. It was the popular forces which managed to do the most difficult tasks in the field of war. If had not been for these popular forces, the fate of the war would have undoubtedly been different. This was the most difficult field. In the field of construction, too, the Basij can really be the axis. In the field of science, too, the Basij can really be in front of all others. In all parts of the country, the Basij is present, be it in university, theological school, among the specialists, within the scientific establishments, among the clerics, in the villages, in the cities, and in the various classes. Basij has shown itself to be the full example of the Iranian nation.

We might be able to say: One of the valuable legacies from the dear and highly valuable imam, the memory which has been the most extensive, is the Basij. The greatest and the most lasting legacy of that honorable man is the popular Basij, which is present everywhere, can be at the forefront of all activities, and show the spirit of the Basij. And this is how it should be. Many people wanted to pretend that with the end of the war the Basij had come to an end. This was an evil suggestion, maybe influenced by the enemy. I must say that Basij has no end. Basij must expand every day. Become stronger. The spirit and wisdom of Basij must become all embracing before this nation could deliver the heavy weight—the weight of divine guidance and human happiness—which it carries. There is no end to Basij. This was the first matter. [Passage omitted saying faith is the necessary condition for continuation]

The second point is that the essential basis of the Basij in the Islamic Republic is alertness. On this score, the Islamic Republic's system has never wanted people to put blindfolds on and to be ignorant of events, to go forward in blind obedience, drawing their swords and arms to start fighting in an arena. This is not what we wanted.

The Islamic Republic and the imam of this Republic—may God's peace and benedictions be upon him—in fact did the reverse. Our nation moved with alertness; chose the arena and fought in that arena. Those who stood and fought on the battlefronts during the length of the imposed war, before that and for a while after that war, fought with their eyes open. They were aware of what they were doing, whom they were fighting; why they were fighting; what they were defending. We repeatedly heard from the young Basijis—whether they were urban or rural; little or highly educated; specialists or non-specialists and in sum, whatever they were—we heard them saying over and over again: We are not fighting for territory; we are not fighting for an inch of territory; we are fighting for the objectives and aspirations. This is what is correct. This is called integrity.

What I should like to say is: dear young ones; dear Basijis, wherever you are in the country, increase your insight day by day and do not allow some material needs and minor problems to blur your perceptions. Preserve your insight and recognize your enemy. The enemy has a variety of tricks up its sleeve. The nation that is not deceived is the one that will be successful. The enemy tries to belittle revolutionary aspirations in the eyes of a faithful nation. It tries to make material and minor needs appear important to us. Material needs are real needs too but, after all, they are not higher than life? A nation that sacrifices its life along the path of God is not affected by other needs when it comes to the arena of struggle against the enemy.

Take a look at policies in the world and you will see that there was never a time when global arrogance and dictatorship did not hatch plots against this sacred Islamic system. They are afraid of the spread of Islam. They say quite openly that revolutionary Islamic sentiment is growing in Islamic countries and this is what we ourselves are seeing. This is a fact. Today, the Iranian nation is not isolated. You should look and see and hear from those who have gone to a variety of countries in the world and to the heart of Europe—see how people today such as the Bosnian-Hercegovina people who are surrounded by the enemies of humankind, are chanting slogans in your name, young Iranians. See how they are imitating your headbands; see how they have realized that the path is the one that you have followed and that they have to follow that same path to defeat the enemy. [audience chants slogans: God is Great; Khamene'i is the Leader; Death to America; Death to the Monafeqin; Death to Israel]

It is this Islamic sentiment in people which is growing daily and it is your own sacred Islamic country which has been and still is, the haven for this sentiment. This is why arrogance is constantly drawing up plans which are of a nature that can be identified if one were to look at them with insight. I feel that presently, America's policy is to solve its problems with Arab countries and the Palestine question; therefore, the future endeavors of American policy are to make regional Arab governments understand: If you want to be hostile toward someone, then leave Israel alone and go after Iran. We—America—will support you, regional countries, on condition that you close ranks against Iran and leave Israel alone.

The new policies of the American Government are to support the usurper Zionists and meanwhile they also have to safeguard the Arabs of the region. The way to do this is to make the regional Arabs understand: If you want arms, protection, assistance, then you should leave Israel alone—not that they did not [before]—you should solve your problem with Israel. If you want to struggle and fight and conduct a verbal and propaganda fight

against anyone, then go after the Islamic Republic and fight Iran. This is America's future policy as far as can be gleaned from evidence.

Of course, after the 14-year [post-revolution] experiences, such threats are worthless to the Iranian nation. America and the Soviet Union joined forces against the Islamic Republic, but this nation stood up to them and fought with all its might. When was there ever a time when two powers on earth were not united against the Islamic Republic? When America and USSR were united reactionary countries supporting America stood against and were hostile to the Islamic Republic, be it by helping Iraq, or in other forms. The Islamic Republic withstood them strongly.

This nation was not frightened of threats in those days, and it will not be today, when they mobilize some of their radios, or a number of countries here and there, against the Islamic Republic. That is not important to us. [passage omitted]

I am worried that Arab governments in the region are being fooled by America. They should think of themselves. If Arab governments in the region heed this evil advice they will widen the rift between their nations and themselves. The nations are with us. The nations are with Islam. They shout slogans in the name of the Islamic Republic. Do you not see a number of Muslim people and youth are standing around and shouting Islamic slogans in Egypt? But there is no connection between them and our people, in terms of normal human communication lines. Their slogans are so similar to ours that their wretched, disgraced president sits there and says they were incited by Iran. What connection do we have with them? They are Muslims; they are shouting Koranic slogans; it is they, themselves, who feel that they should speak, shout, and move for God's sake, like the screams and actions of the Iranian nation in the satanic [Shah's] era and now against America and world arrogance and blasphemy.

Other nations are so sympathetic to the Islamic Republic that some ignorant blackguards think that they have been incited by Iran. No sir, what incitement? We have no business inciting other nations. We shout Islamic slogans and raise the banner of Islam, and anyone in whose heart the flame of Islam burns naturally rallies around that banner. When did we engage in propaganda about the Islamic Republic in Bosnia-Hercegovina? See how dear the Islamic Republic banner is there. [passage omitted]

Be watchful in knowing the enemy and the enemy's ploys. See how the enemy wants to misrepresent the Islamic Republic in the world; and, of course, it will not succeed. To be fair, enemy propaganda is well-planned. We must accept that. They spend money. They spend billions trying to falsify news, so that when it goes on the airwaves over their radios and is heard by one Iranian, via one or two middlemen, it will be effective. How many lies have they manufactured? They have experts. Their aims should be understood. Their aim is to separate us from Islam, to separate the nation from the officials, to disappoint the nation in the revolution, to dishearten the nation about the future of its holy war and defense, to drive the nation away from the arena and the center of the struggle. They should know that they will never succeed in that. [Crowd chants: God is great, Khamene'i is the leader, Death to America, Death to Britain, Death to the monafeqin and Saddam, Death to Israel]

The next, and final, topic concerns you dear Basijis. [passage omitted] You should know that one of the weapons of those same enemies, to whom you say "death to you," is to spread the seeds of sin and corruption in front of you, in front of our youths to tempt them. [passage omitted]

The last point is to rely on God Almighty wholeheartedly. You should know—and I say this with all my heart—that if America and all the world's materialistic powers were to join forces and try to defeat this Islamic system, while our pious Basijis exist, by God, they would not be able to. [Crowd chants God is great, Khamene'i is the leader, Death to America, Death to Britain, Death to the monafeqin and Saddam, Death to Israel] [passage omitted]

Further on Egypt, U.S.

LD1811142992 Tehran IRNA in English 1238 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on Wednesday refuted as "false" claims raised by Egypt that Iran was instigating Egyptian Muslim youths. "Because of the closeness between the slogans of Iranian and Egyptian peoples, the ignorant and disgraced president of that country (Egypt) has claimed that Egyptian Muslim youths are instigated by Iran. This claim is a lie.

"We do not provoke other nations. Rather, the name of the Islamic Republic and Iranian nation is a popular and esteemed name among Muslim nations because of their hoisting of the banner of Islam," Ayatollah Khamene'i said. The supreme leader also said the new policy of the world's authoritarian powers was to push Persian Gulf Arab states towards enmity with the Islamic Republic.

"Evidence shows that America's future policy is concentrated on provoking the Arab governments of the region to launch a propaganda and rhetorical campaign against the Islamic Republic," the leader told commanders and members of basiji (volunteer) forces.

Ayatollah Khamene'i pointed out that the U.S. intends to persuade the Arab governments of the region that if they wanted to enjoy U.S. support and military assistance they should turn against Iran and leave Israel alone. "Our sole concern is that Arab states would be deceived by the U.S. and by bowing to Washington's satanic temptations would further distance themselves

from their nations. Their nations are Muslims who, as we see now, are chanting slogans for Islam and the Islamic Republic," he said.

Elsewhere in his speech, the supreme leader said that it was due to the power of the basijis (volunteer forces) that the personality of the Iranian Muslim nation had become known in the world.

Ayatollah Khamene'i called for the strengthening of the basij and for spread of its spirit and nature in order that the Iranian people could attain prosperity according to the divine guidance.

Commander Interviewed on Start of Basij Week

NC1911093892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] On the anniversary of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni's, may his soul be sanctified, issuance of the decree forming a 20-million-strong army, Basij Week begins on Saturday [21 November]. The week commemorates the heroics and sacrifices of youths devoted to defending justice and pure Mohammedan Islam, a group of which the nation is more proud than any other in the history of the Islamic revolution.

The sacred Basij institution has yielded many fruits for the Islamic revolution and our dear nation. Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, described the Basij force's formation as one of God's blessings on the Islamic Republic's system.

Yesterday, on the eve of Basij Week, Brigadier General Afshar, commander of the Basij Resistance Force, and some of its members and resistance commanders were received by the commander in chief, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. In this meeting, the leader pointed to the significance of the Basij role in safeguarding the Islamic revolution and stressed the need to expand this popular institution.

The organization of popular forces has always faced problems, so this morning we interviewed Afshar and asked him about the force's plans and programs for a better and more cohesive organization of the Basij forces. Afshar referred to his report yesterday [not further identified], to the formation of the 'Ashura battalions, and to the expansion of student bases.

As for the Basij, its role in enjoining virtue and prohibiting vice remains ambiguous. This week Majles deputies approved a bill on this, but there is concern that the issue will remain a bill.

Undoubtedly, enjoining virtue and prohibiting vice should not become a governmental or group affair; each person should consider it one of their duties. We also asked Afshar about this.

[Begin Afshar recording] As for enjoining virtue and prohibiting vice, the most we emphasize to the dear Basiji members is that their efforts should take the form of advice and guidance. All the Basij forces throughout the country have been asked to carry out their duty within the framework of a well-organized plan and by handing in a daily report to the (?officials) of the force. In some cases this advice and guidance may be coupled with problems and (?conflicting) approaches.

We need legislative support as a general backing. Thank God the Majles has approved this bill. Apparently there was a problem with one of its paragraphs and the Guardian Council sent the bill back to the Majles. If this bill is approved and becomes law, then we can have the necessary legal backing.

This program is in the form of advice and guidance. We do not have any legal obstacles now, but we are waiting for the bill to become law so that we can have cooperation in the advanced stages of dealing with obvious crimes, as the law envisages. In some provinces some lower-level activities are being carried out with the sincere cooperation of the local prosecutors and through their legal authority. [end recording]

Although the Basijis must be thanked, more necessary on the eve of Basij Week would seem to be the need for more efforts to strengthen the Basij spirit in society, more cohesive organization of the 20-million-strong army, and solutions to Basijis' problems. We hope Basij Week will be a turning point.

Resumption of Ties With U.S. Ruled Out

LD1811183492 Tehran IRNA in English 1547 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA—The Majles speaker, ruling out resumption of Tehran-Washington ties, said on Wednesday that the parliament's stance towards the United States of America is as clear as that of the late Imam Khomeyni, that is decisive, firm and frank.

"In my opinion, anybody who thinks otherwise, is swimming against the current. This is against the natural course of the revolution," Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said in an interview published by the Persian daily 'KAYHAN' Wednesday.

"Of course, making comments or expressing one's view is not an offense. In my opinion this does not contradict our freedom...such freedom should exist and we should not suppress thoughts or viewpoints," Nateq-Nuri was quoted as saying.

However, he dismissed as "erroneous" the idea offered by some people that Iran's problems might be resolved if it softened its stance towards the U.S.

"This is an opinion. But in my view, their analysis is wrong. If someone says such a thing, we should not brand it as being pro-American or a mercenary of the U.S.," the speaker said.

He said the strategy of the U.S. is domination, bullying, killing and subjugation of the world, whereas the strategy of the Islamic Republic is preservation and promulgation of Islam, Islamic unity, and protection of the oppressed people of the world.

Both the outgoing U.S. President George Bush and the President-elect Bill Clinton have announced that the U.S. wants to resume ties with Islamic Iran, the speaker was quoted as saying.

"Can any just person show a single sign of Washington's goodwill (vis-a-vis Iran)? They have not released our frozen money or assets, nor have they lifted sanctions (against Iran). They are just saying they are ready to establish ties with Iran," he said.

The speaker pointed out "we say we would not like to resume relations with the U.S., but it (Washington) says if Iran wants to have ties with us, it should not say anything in relations to the Arabs and Israel.

"It is not possible for us to back down from our stance towards Palestine. We cannot make a compromise on the issues of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Afghanistan, or the Muslims of Central Asia.

"...In my opinion it is naive if some people think that if we soften our stance against the U.S. some of our problems might be solved."

Asked about his views on foreign investment, the Majlis speaker responded that there are some projects in Iran which could not be finished without foreign investment.

"At present, we do not have the ability to provide everything ourselves. In my views, making use of foreign investments to the extent allowed by the Constitution is not harmful. However, we should be careful of its side effects," he was quoted as saying.

"As for foreign investments, some may say that if they (foreigners) come they may bring corruption along...Well if an ambassador comes he may bring more corruption with regards to his immunity. We cannot say that there should not be embassies or experts," he said.

As for the World Bank, Nateq-Nuri said that Iran is a member with investments in the bank.

"That is like the United Nations. Is the U.N. speaking in our favour? It is governed by the world's big powers...are the Security Council or other international circles speaking in our favour? But we are however a member and permanently represented there.

"We should take advantage (of our presence) as much as possible but should not be under their influence," the daily quoted the Majlis speaker as saying.

Commenting on the fourth term of the Majles, he said there are 186 new members in it, or in other words two thirds of the total deputies. "They are on a higher level in terms of qualifications and knowledge."

Hojjat ol-eslam Nateq-Nuri was also quoted as saying that one of the points of strength of the present Majles is that it has been kept out of factionalism and political differences. "This has provided traquility for the Majles, deputies and society," he said.

Questioned about the new economic policy of President Rafsanjani's government to fix a single foreign exchange rate, he replied, "President Rafsanjani's economic policy focuses on the three axes of reconstruction, economic balance and development, which are acceptable to all."

He said all Majles deputies are of the belief that the way taken by the president, although unique, is the only option that can rescue the country.

He, however, advised the government to work out a plan to protect the vulnerable strata of society from becoming worse-off in the process of economic reform.

"An absolute change does not make any sense...I think this is not acceptable to the government. For instance, President Rafsanjani is against cutting subsidies on strategic goods," he concluded.

Mubarak's 'Nefarious Intention' Decried

NC1911080392 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Nov 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Mubarak's Well Timed Snipes at Iran"]

[Text] No better chance Egyptian President Husni Mubarak could get than what he had on Saturday while addressing his country's rubber-stamped Parliament accusing the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This is not the first time that one of the Camp David Accord's engineers and initiator of the Muslim world's denounced agreement, Mubarak, tried to curry favor with the Zionist and pro-Zionist Western countries through making accusations against the Tehran Administration.

Of course, Mubarak's remarks against Iran have already been dismissed by the islamic world including those Muslims from Egypt itself as hogwash, but it should be noted that the timing Mubarak has chosen for the political venture was the most suited to his nefarious intention.

He knew that the foreign minister of the Zionist regime Shim'on Peres was due in Cairo and with whom he as the so-called Arab world leader was to talk to bring the Middle East 'peace' talks again on stream.

Iran, as all know is the No. 1 enemy of the Zionist regime, so Mubarak was trying to say to the Zionist minister that he is in a position to 'deal' with the common enemy.

Another chance Mubarak wanted to utilize was the defense ministers' meeting of the Persian Gulf Arab states who were meeting in Kuwait. In conclusion, those

Arab defense ministers echoed the voice of Mubarak and blamed Iran for certain developments in the region.

Mubarak knows very well that he had to beg support of the Democrats in the United States who elected Governor Bill Clinton as the next president.

Recently President-elect Clinton, basing himself on distorted facts, passed certain remarks against the Islamic Republic of Iran and Mubarak just wanted to toe his line in an anti-Iran campaign.

Mubarak made the irrelevant remarks when the issue of Abu Musa Island was going to be put into cold storage and it was announced by both the sides, Iran and the UAE [United Arab Emirates], that the situation in the Persian Gulf island had returned to normal.

The Egyptian president should know the crystal clear policy of Islamic Iran, that it does not interfere into the internal affairs of other countries.

It is also true and the world Muslims know it very well that Iran even at the cost of its national interests remains and will remain at the forefront in the cause of Islam.

If to raise the voice for Islam and the Muslims is a fault, as Mubarak said to assume the "guardianship of Islam," then the Iranians are proud of it.

Mubarak should know that those who are living in a house of glass should not throw stones at others. Iran was, is and will remain committed to Islam and will support its neighbors. The Egyptian president should also note that Iran will never fire the first bullet at its neighbors but rather will defend them.

But if any fire comes at the Islamic Republic then the Egyptian president and other mercenaries like him will not be alive, to "defend the oil rich states."

In the meantime, Iran will continue cordial, friendly and brotherly relations with all neighboring countries.

Demirel, Rafsanjani Hold Phone Consultations

LD1911122892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, in a telephone conversation with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning, discussed main developments in the region and also in bilateral relations.

In the telephone contact, Mr. Demirel said: Turkey will not allow any country to harm the relations between our two countries.

He hoped that in the new phase in the two countries' relationship he would witness ever more expansion of cooperation in all fields. He also said he was happy with bilateral talks in Tehran and the talks in the recent meeting of foreign ministers in Ankara, adding that Turkey believed the ministerial meeting [in which foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey, and Syria participated] would mark a new step in important regional cooperation.

The Turkish prime minister also stressed the need for expansion of cooperation among the member-states of Economic Cooperation Organization.

For his part, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani hoped that the two countries would neutralize, with full alertness, the conspiracy hatched by those who were creating problems in the relations of the countries in the region.

Stressing the need for ever more expansion of cooperation between Iran and Turkey he said: Sensitive conditions in the region require cooperation between the two countries to be expanded. We must take joint steps to strengthen our relations.

In conclusion, the president hoped that friendly countries could, through collective cooperation, strengthen conditions for peace, security, and stability in the region.

Turkish Prime Minister's Recent Visit Viewed

Demirel on Kurds, Other Issues

NC1811212292 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Oct 92 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel attended a news conference yesterday afternoon and answered questions from domestic and foreign correspondents.

A RESALAT correspondent asked: "The Turkish Army has entered northern Iraq apparently to chase the Kurdish rebels. Do you grant your neighboring countries the right to do the same thing and enter your territory if they want to chase their enemies?" Demirel said: "I think your question stems from very strong feelings and excitement. Very strong. I do not think that we can sit back idly and allow women, children, judges, prosecutors, soldiers, and policemen to be ambushed by (Kurdish guerrillas) inside Turkish territory and be killed.

"We will persecute them. If they seek asylum on the other side of the border, what should we do? We will not allow anyone to return to Turkey after doing so."

Our correspondent said: "I consider this to be an affirmative reply to my question...." Demirel hastily answered: "No! No! This issue is not one of being affirmative or not. My answer is that your question stems from extreme feelings and excitement and that this should never be the case."

He did not clarify what the case he referred to was: The killing of civilians by Kurdish rebels, the persecution of the Kurds by Turkish soldiers, or the answer to this question!

Our correspondent asked: "Your behavior on the Cape Maleas issue has led the Iranian public to believe that the

instability in your decisionmaking on this issue is due to the fact that the Americans are behind this issue. What is your opinion?"

Demirel said: "This is meaningless! There is no instability.... Yesterday I explained that we have an independent judiciary in our country and that this decision was not made by the Turkish Government. Actually the Supreme Court made the decision on this case, and it will be implemented. This problem will be solved within the next couple of weeks."

Our correspondent continued: "We hope so, you have changed your mind on this issue several times!"

Demirel said: "No, no. This is not my decision; it is the court's. I explained the process to you. The Supreme Court will decide on this issue as it did in the first place!"

Our correspondent asked: "So you are optimistic that the ship will be released within the next couple of weeks?"

Demirel said: "I am sure, I am sure, I am sure!"

In conclusion, he told our correspondent: "Now that you have said what you had to say, I want to tell you: We should understand each other!"

In answer to an Iranian correspondent's question on the fact Turkish press accusations have led to a coldness in relations with Iran, Demirel said: These allegations are sometimes made by the press, but they cannot harm the strong relations between the two countries.

In answer to an IRNA correspondent's question on the failure to reach a political solutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Turkish prime minister said: Turkey is a member of the CSCE and will support its decisions as well as decisions by the UN Security Council.

He said he was satisfied over his talks with Iranian officials, saying that one of the joint decisions made was to activate cooperation in the political, economic, transportation, and telecommunications fields. In addition, more activities by the two countries' private sector is being sought.

The Turkish prime minister told reporters that the following issues were discussed during the meetings: The linking of the countries' electricity networks; the transfer of Iranian natural gas via Turkey to Europe; the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] and the formation of an ECO bank; the reduction in custom tariffs; and further cooperation among Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan in the private sector.

Demirel expressed his concern about the situation in Azerbaijan and Karabakh and called for peace and stability in this region and in Abkhazia and underlined the responsibility that Iran and Turkey have in helping establish peace.

The foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey, Syria, and possibly Saudi Arabia will meet in November to discuss the situation in northern Iraq, he noted.

He did not say where the talks would be held but pointed out that the Turkish Government is very sensitive about northern Iraq and about the formation of a Kurdish state, adding that he witnessed the Iranian officials' sensitivity on this issue during his visit.

Demirel added: The preservation of Iraq's territorial integrity is an extremely sensitive issue. If this territorial integrity is not preserved, an infectious wound would be opened in the region. We believe that the Iraqi citizens should all enjoy equal rights.

He described the entry of the Turkish Army into northern Iraq and the occupation of Khakruk [reference to an area where Turkish, Iranian, and Iraqi territory meet] as confrontation with terrorism, not as a domestic issue. When terrorism exists in a country, he said, all means can be used to fight it; and the world has recognized that right.

Demirel said that had there been a powerful rule in northern Iraq, there would be no need for such incidents, that Turkey would not have resorted to such acts. He added that Turkey has not entered Iraq to harass the people there but to crush the network of criminals. We have not occupied Iraqi territory, he said, adding: What we want to do is to crush the criminals! [passage omitted]

Talks Called 'Effective,' 'Constructive'

NC1811200692 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 29 Oct 92 pp 1, 13

[From the "Weekly Political Analysis" column]

[Text] This week the Islamic Republic of Iran hosted Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and his delegation. In Tehran, Demirel held effective and constructive talks on the improvement of bilateral relations and the way to remove bilateral problems. In addition, he demonstrated that Turkey possesses the necessary political determination to regulate bilateral relations within a framework acceptable to both sides.

There have been and still are some who want to hurt these relations by resorting to unprincipled and irresponsible stances and saying that the two countries are on the brink of a conflict. Unfortunately, some Turkish officials have fanned the flames of this poisonous propaganda with their unjustified remarks and behavior. The "Cape Maleas" incident is a clear example of this and has not yet been cleared up. The overt and covert alien hands in Turkey try to push Tehran-Ankara relations toward a conflict each time a tendency toward cooperation and understanding is seen. These efforts may stem from the power struggle among the parties and rivaling groups on the Turkish political scene, controversies that are sometimes intensified by some foreign embassies in Turkey. However, what is important for the Islamic Republic of

Iran is the outcome of this visit, which will be considered as Ankara's outlook on bilateral relations.

Irrespective of rank and level, all the Turkish statesmen who have visited Tehran so far have always conveyed a message of friendship, cooperation, and understanding. In some cases, however, their words have not always conformed with deeds, hence the misunderstandings and the mistrust in what they say.

Demirel's remarks and stances during the past few months speak of a clear and effective political determination in Ankara. In Tehran as well, he expressed positive and hope-inspiring views on the improvement and expansion of bilateral relations. He has given rise to the outlook that if the Ankara government has the tools to implement this wish, the expectation that relations can be improved, elevated, and expanded to an agreeable level can be fulfilled.

It is clear that bilateral relations enjoy a common characteristic and reciprocity. As far as the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned, Islamic Iran has—from the very start—supported an expansion of relations among all Islamic countries, especially its neighbors. In this midst, Turkey enjoys favorable opportunities and benefits and has been able to gain a suitable place in the Islamic Republic's foreign policy during the past few years. Had it not been for the spreading of poison and spite and the incorrect behavior by some Turkish officials and media, certainly relations would have been far more vast and on a higher level. There are no obstacles in Tehran as far as the expansion of relations with Ankara is concerned. If the necessary political determination for expanding relations exists in Ankara, certainly in the future we will witness such an expansion. Such relations will, first and foremost, be to the benefit of both countries and both nations and will, later on, be to the benefit of regional peace, security, stability, and interests. Ultimately, all regional countries and the Islamic world will benefit from this relationship.

There are numerous problems in the region and Islamic world on which both countries enjoy almost a similar outlook. Naturally, through coordination, many historic opportunities for solving problems in the region and Islamic world will rise. Let us not forget that on the other side of the two countries' borders many sly efforts to dismember Iraq are taking place. Any success by arrogance in these efforts would be to the detriment of both countries and to the detriment of the region, as they will lead to a new phase of insecurity and instability. Both sides have much untapped potential to strive to fulfill the needs of the newly independent Central Asian republics and of the vast spectrum of Islamic countries. If they are able to benefit from this potential to achieve mutual understanding, they will be able to reap all the benefits that will ensue.

Moreover, complicated and at the same time serious problems concerning regional security, as well as problems in the Caucasus, Afghanistan, and Bosnia-Hercegovina are included on the list of issues on which mutual cooperation and understanding is needed. This would benefit all regional countries and nations and the Islamic world.

Suleyman Demirel stressed one point in Tehran that was assessed as extremely hope-inspiring and positive. He said: "Under the new world conditions, Turkey believes that it has a responsibility to have sincere cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran." If this sentence is translated into deeds, naturally it will be positively received in Tehran. This is why Demirel's hand was warmly shaken in Tehran.

'Insults' of Azerbaijani President Decried

NC1811195092 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 7 Nov 92 p 16

[Commentary by RESALAT's Foreign Politics Section: "Elchibey's Futile Wish"]

[Text] The semi-official ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY recently dispatched a report on news telexes, the validity of which should be carefully considered.

This news agency reported that in Turkey, [Azerbaijani President] Abulfaz Elchibey called for Iran's annihilation.

Citing Elchibey, ANATOLIA reported that Azerbaijan's wish is the complete annihilation of despotic rules, namely Iran and China!

This is the umpteenth time that the hireling president of Azerbaijan has expressed his futile wishes. Of course, until now officials of 60-million strong Iran have magnanimously ignored these childish remarks. What objective is Elchibey pursuing in his insults against Islamic Iran? He has heard that one way to get U.S. and European attention and popularity is by opposing the Asian [as published] Republic of Iran! He, however, is much too flawed to be taken seriously by the United States and European countries. He can only pin his hopes on those who brought him to power by a coup.

He should know that if it suits Turkey's interests one day, he could be sacrificed in front of Ataturk's statue. All of his prostrations in front of this idol would be thrown down the drain! Today the Turkish Government has established economic relations with the enemy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to serve its own interests! If Elchibey had any brains, he would have tried to gain popularity among the Muslim people of Azerbaijan, not among hegemonic governments. Of course, he has left behind a black mark in his record among the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and that is that to achieve power, he handed over the strategic area of Lachin to Armenia so that Turkey's coup could succeed.

Central Asia Offered Communications Aid

LD1811175292 Tehran IRNA in English 1309 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday said Iran is ready to help Central Asian Republics to set up a communications network.

Speaking at the closing session of the five-day International Congress on Scientific and Cultural Cooperation in Central Asia, Velayati welcomed the establishment of the network, proposed by the United Nations Educational and Scientific Cooperation Organization (UNESCO).

He further welcomed the idea of creation of an institute for Central Asian studies in Samarkand. He added that global and regional institutes should fully cooperate with the Samarkand institute to bring to light the ambiguities in the history and culture of the republics.

Velayati told the congress, sponsored jointly by UNESCO and Iran, that Iran has provided textbooks to the Central Asian Republics, offered intensive scientific courses there and sent typographical equipment to the newly-independent republics.

He said 70 years of Communist rule has left behind ethnic and cultural gaps in Central Asian Republics. Since sovereignty relies on an independent culture for its survival, the newly-independent former Soviet republics should revive their traditional, religious, and cultural infrastructure, he told the participants.

Referring to the rebirth of Central Asian Republics and the collapse of Communism, Velayati hoped that Iran and the neighboring countries would restore their former brotherly relations and promote the spirit of good-neighborliness among themselves.

Also addressing the session was Minister of Culture and Higher Education Mostafa Mo'in who expressed Iran's readiness for cultural, educational and scientific cooperation with the Central Asian states.

OPEC Urged To Control Production, Prices

NC1411185092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0450 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Commentary by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God. According to oil experts, the average price of oil in world markets fell considerably last week, and the price of each barrel of crude oil fluctuated below what OPEC expected.

Why has the price of oil dropped instead of rising at this time of year when cold weather usually increases prices, and can OPEC continue to maintain its strength in the world oil market?

It should be said that several factors have played a role in weakening the oil market, the most important factor being the ambiguous agreement reached at the OPEC ministerial session in Shahrivar [month beginning 23 August]. In the statement the OPEC ministers issued at the end of their supervisory session in Geneva, the members' duties toward the market were not clear. Instead of stressing OPEC's production ceiling, an ambiguous reference was made to OPEC's share in the oil market.

Iran expressed its dissatisfaction toward the agreement then, and now we are seeing, as the Iranian delegation predicted, that supply exceeds demand, and oil prices have fallen.ten

Economic experts believe that the excessive competition among certain OPEC members is the major reason for the recent drop in oil prices. Of course, it is possible that as it gets colder, which is the only ray of hope for OPEC this season, prices will stabilize to a certain extent. The disturbing point, however, is the possibility that OPEC will continue to offer more oil than demand calls for in the next few months. This paints a bleak horizon for the 31-year-old OPEC. The possibility that the West will introduce new tax laws on oil intensifies the concern that oil-exporting countries feel toward extreme fluctuations in their oil income. This concern also intensifies worries over the reduction in OPEC's petrodollar purchasing power. Based on published figures, during the first six months of 1371 [21 March-22 September 1992], OPEC members lost more than 6.22 percent of their purchasing power due to the drop in the dollar rate.

At any rate, OPEC is facing an extremely sensitive situation. The illogical competition in oil production, the upsetting of quotas, and the intensification of differences inside OPEC have all made this organization vulnerable. If OPEC is unable to preserve its domination over the oil market, it will lose other members after Ecuador.

Iran, which has always defended the idea of strengthening the oil market and ensuring the $21 base price per barrel in all OPEC sessions, also calls on OPEC members to display self-restraint and control production to avoid a surplus. Only then can OPEC once again successfully pass this test and preserve its strength in the oil market.

A. Khomeyni on Islam-Atheism 'Confrontation'

LD1511153592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni received officials from the Basij Resistance Force of the Voice and Vision offices throughout the country, and university students and school children from Tehran and Takestan this morning. In the course of a speech, he described the spread of Islamic thinking among oppressed nations as the greatest threat to the interests of the world of arrogance, and he said that the

contemporary world is the scene of open confrontation between Islamic thought and atheistic thinking.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said: In the present circumstances, Muslims find themselves in a situation in which they must make the principle of struggle in the path of safeguarding Islamic thought their main motto of action. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni described the spread of Islamic beliefs and ideas among oppressed nations as a divine blessing and noted the need for vigilance and preparedness in the face of the ploys of global arrogance. He added: The enmity of the world of arrogance against Islam has not altered in the slightest.

He described the sowing of mistrust and sensitivity among some Persian Gulf littoral countries toward the stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran as one of the calculated ploys of the United States aimed at realizing its military and economic aims in the region. He noted: Today, the United States is using the pretext of the threat posed by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region to impose its exploitative hegemony over Persian Gulf littoral countries.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni continued by saying that solidarity and unity between every single member of the Islamic ummah and the oppressed Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina is an Islamic and a humanitarian duty and, referring to the responsibility of the mass media in this regard, he added: The mass media have an obligation to register the truth about the genocide of the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina and to present it to the public so that they may judge for themselves.

He continued: Today we can see that a nation is doing its utmost to preserve its Islamic existence, and it has been subjected to the most horrific crimes. The false claimants to the defense of human rights and international organizations and institutions have shut their eyes to the realities.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni added: We have total faith that the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina will emerge with pride from this great divine test, because theirs is a battle about belief, and the advanced weapons of the Serbs will not be able to break the resolve of a determined nation.

Pakistan

Police Seize Bhutto, Opposition Leaders

BK1811135992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1354 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 18 (AFP)—Police Wednesday took away former premier Benazir Bhutto along with top leaders of her opposition People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) after encouraging supporters trying to march on the capital from nearby Rawalpindi, witnesses said. They said police surrounded her Pajero jeep while she was returning to Islamabad 15 kilometres (10 miles) away after a brief appearance at a mass rally in Rawalpindi.

As the crowd dispersed amid massive tear gas shelling, Rawalpindi police chief Habibullah Niazi seized control of the vehicle, witnesses said. He reportedly pushed aside PDA secretary Khurshid Mehmud Kasuri, who was at the steering wheel, and drove the opposition leaders off to an unknown destination.

"Keep it up, I will be back soon," Bhutto told reporters as Niazi commandeered the jeep.

Earlier Bhutto's supporters were beaten by police Wednesday as they helped her break through police cordons set up around her Islamabad house to prevent them joining the march. She managed to escape in a car, turning up at Rawalpindi later to talk to several hundred people in the city's Liaquat Gardens. Witnesses said she planned to lead a vehicular procession to Islamabad.

"I have fulfilled my promise by coming to Liaquat Gardens," she told the crowd, adding that "this was no time for a public address."

"We will also fulfil our commitment to go the parliament building" in Islamabad, she said as the crowd chanted back slogans, defying the continuous rain of tear gas canisters. Witnesses said gas shells landed close to Bhutto, injuring some people.

She stayed at Liaquat Gardens for about 10 minutes before leaving for Islamabad followed by a chain of vehicles as well as people running behind her cavalcade.

Demonstration Day Passes 'Peacefully'

BK1811144492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] There has been no public response to PDA's [People's Democratic Alliance's] demonstration program as people have dissociated themselves from the politics of agitation and violence. The day passed off peacefully in the federal capital as the local administration took effective security measures to prevent any untoward incident of violence. In the main cities and towns throughout the country, life generally remained normal.

According to the reports, the PDA leader, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, moved around in Rawalpindi for about two hours. But she failed to evoke people's interest in her agitational program.

In various areas of Rawalpindi, shops and business owners remained open and general public were busy in their normal activities. Except for a minor incident of stone pelting in Rawalpindi, no untoward incident has been reported from any part of the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Owners of buses and wagons however refrained from operating their vehicles due to

fear of damage. Private cars and taxis continued to ply on the roads of the capital. All the offices remained open and worked normally. The government had undertaken all necessary measures to protect the life and property of the citizens and the law-enforcing agencies were put on alert to deal with any situation.

PTV representatives report from Lahore that situation remained normal throughout the Punjab Province except for a few incidents of clashes between the police and PDA workers. In Lahore, PDA workers started gathering near Data Darbar around 0900. Police force had been deployed to maintain peace in the area. PDA workers started pelting stones at the police. Police were forced to use tear gas to disperse the demonstrators. Two ASI's [assistant subinspectors] and a constable received injuries as a result of stone pelting by PDA workers. The PDA activists also pelted stone at official vehicles. An official vehicle was also set on fire by PDA activists. At Multan Road near Chowpaty, they also pelted stones at police and burned tires at the Lower Mall and Data Darbar areas. These acts of violence caused inconvenience to the people. PTV correspondents report from Gujranwala, Sheikhupura, Faisalabad, Sahiwal, Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan, and Bahawalpur that life remained normal in these cities. Business centers remained open.

PTV correspondents report from Karachi that all business centers remained open in the city and normal business continued as usual. Buses, taxis, minibuses, wagons, rickshaws, and other vehicles were plying on roads as usual. Business centers remained open in Sadar, Jinnah Road, Chandrigarh Road, Liaquatabad, Nazimabad, Korangi, Layari, Malir, Landhi, and suburbs of the city. All the educational institutions continued their normal activity as usual. No incidents of violence or disruption has been reported from any part of Karachi.

PTV correspondents report from Peshawar and Quetta that the situation remained normal in the two provinces. All bazaars and markets remained open as usual. Traffic was plying on the roads and private buses were operating normally. Educational institutions also remained open in these cities. According to a report, a small group of people tried to come out on G.T. Road in Peshawar but disappeared following tear-gassing by the police. There were no injuries.

Bhutto's Status Clarified

BK1811155292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, the prime minister's special assistant, has said that the government will welcome positive political action and a positive atmosphere, but it will not tolerate negative political activities. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad a short while ago, he said that restrictions have been in force in Islamabad on public demonstrations and rallies since the burning of the [U.S.] diplomatic mission in 1981. Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan said that it is the government's responsibility to protect the democratic institutions and process as well as the lives and property of the people. The government cannot allow people to swarm into the capital and stage a sit-in there.

He said that Ms. Benazir Bhutto was allowed to travel to Rawalpindi, where she spent two hours at Raja Bazar and other areas. Later, she was brought to Islamabad. In reply to a question, he said that the government had made a firm decision not to question the opposition leader and affirmed that she was not arrested.

Opposition Activities Viewed

BK1811165692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] The special assistant to the prime minister, Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, has said that the government will welcome a positive political process and environment, but cannot allow the politics of subversion. This is why it took the decision to ban PDA's [People's Democratic Alliance's] protest to save the lives and properties of citizens. He was addressing a news conference in Islamabad tonight. The minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Abdul Sattar Lalika, and the interior minister, Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, were also present.

He said the government strongly felt that the protest march was not a political move. He reminded that over its two year's tenure, this government has the best track record in Pakistan's politics as not a single political rally of the opposition has been disturbed in any way. In fact, the government has canceled its own public meetings and rallies like the one on the 14th of August last to enable the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] and Jamaat-i-Islami to hold their public meetings. Chaudhary Nisar Ali said if the government wanted to crush the PPP, it had much better opportunities in the past when the leader of the opposition mainly talked of mass resignations of their MNA's [Members of National Assembly] and street mobilization of the people against the government. On the contrary, the government allowed her to hold rallies even close to the capital when there was no hint of disturbance of law and order.

Referring to today's proposed so-called long march, he said the government in line with its track record would not have opposed it had it been just a political demonstration against the government. He blamed the PDA for creating confusion about its planned march. Where it suited them they said it was for democracy, the elections and political process. At the same time they said it was a long march to storm the capital, topple the government, and to take over the parliament house. It was the responsibility of the government, he said, to protect the institution, the political process and life and property of the citizens. If they wanted to change the government, they should have moved a no-confidence motion in the National Assembly.

He said the government strongly felt that it was not a political move but a media blitz to shore up political failures of the opposition leader over the last few months. Chaudhary Nisar Ali pointed out that public demonstrations and public meetings are banned in Islamabad and this law is in force since 1981 when one of the diplomatic missions was burned down.

He said the government allowed the leader of the opposition to go through the streets of bazaars of Rawalpindi for two hours during peak shopping hours at busiest places. At no time the crowd went beyond 1,500. When the crowd became unruly and scuffle broke out with the police and the authorities felt that they were [words indistinct] fears by aggravation of the situation, Benazir Bhutto Saheba was escorted out of Rawalpindi to Islamabad. He said the government has no intention to arrest the leader of the opposition or other PDA leaders and clear instructions have been given to this effect. In reply to a question, he said the government hopes that better sense will prevail. The government wanted the opposition to play its due role. If however, the opposition continues to draw its (?power) on the streets to show unpolitical perceptions and motives the government will continue to act in the same fashion.

Bhutto's Ban Noted

BK1911012092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] An official spokesman in Islamabad has described speculation about Ms. Benazir Bhutto's arrest as completely incorrect and said she has not been arrested. The spokesman said that Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan, Khurshid Mahmud Qasoori, and others who were temporarily taken into custody last evening are also not under arrest. They are no more under protective custody. The spokesman, however, said that Ms. Benazir Bhutto's entry into Islamabad Federal Capital area and Rawalpindi District has been banned for 30 days under the Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance.

Bhutto Claims Victory

BK1911080892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0742 GMT 19 NOV 92

[Text] Karachi, Nov 19 (AFP)—A defiant Benazir Bhutto vowed Thursday to continue her campaign to bring down the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, claiming a "triumph" despite her banishment from the capital.

The opposition leader arrived here earlier Thursday on a Pakistan Airlines flight after being detained by security forces and banned from the capital and neighbouring Rawalpindi for 30 days.

She condemned "repressive measures" adopted by Sharif to block an opposition "long march" from Rawalpindi to the capital Wednesday to press demands for early elections.

Bhutto had planned the march as part of her campaign to oust the government which she alleges is corrupt and came to power through rigged elections.

"The government of Prime minister Nawaz Sharif is morally finished and the freedom and democracy loving people of Pakistan have triumphed despite unprecedented repressive measures of the government," she said on arrival here.

"The struggle will continue," Bhutto said, adding that the future strategy of the opposition in seeking fresh elections would be worked out at a meeting in Islamabad of other leaders of her four-party People's Democratic Alliance.

Further protest rallies have been called in Rawalpindi, Lahore and Peshawar later Thursday, opposition sources in Islamabad said.

Her expulsion from Islamabad followed a day of clashes between her supporters and security forces who used tear gas and batons to stop crowds gathering for the outlawed march.

Tension gripped this southern Pakistani port city as news spread of Bhutto's brief detention by security forces in Islamabad, blacked out by the official media.

Her mother Nusrat Bhutto, chairwoman of the opposition Pakistan People's Party, arrested near Gujranwala in Punjab Province as she made her way to Rawalpindi to take part in the protest march, had also been brought here, informed sources said.

They added that Bhutto had been given a medical check up at a hospital on her arrival.

Dozens of people were injured and hundreds arrested in three cities in clashes between security forces and opposition demonstrators Wednesday.

More than 50 people, including a dozen police, were injured in Rawalpindi where police tear-gassed and baton charged Bhutto supporters. Three people hit by tear-gas shells were in critical condition, hospital sources said.

In eastern Lahore clashes continued most of the day with many casualties, witnesses said. Clashes were also fierce in northwestern Peshawar, according to press reports.

Official sources said 1,600 people were arrested but the opposition put the figure at more than 15,000.

Opposition Plans March for 21 Nov

BK1911122692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1214 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 19 (AFP)—Pakistan's opposition announced here Thursday new moves in their campaign to unseat the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, including a repeat of their march on Islamabad this week.

A top officials of the People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) said opposition leader Benazir Bhutto would lead a march from the north-western city of Peshawar on Friday, and other PDA leaders would lead a march to Islamabad from nearby Rawalpindi on Saturday.

PDA activists would also start "infiltrating" quietly into the capital from Friday to hold "small" meetings in a revised strategy, retired air marshal Asghar Khan said.

Bhutto, expelled from Islamabad after security forces foiled her attempt to lead a mass march on Wednesday, was to reach Peshawar later Thursday, he said. The 38-year old former premier, who was banished from Islamabad and Rawalpindi for 30 days after being detained, reached Karachi early Thursday.

Speaking at a news conference at his police-surrounded residence here, Khan said "we believe that the restrictions do not restrain her from going to other places."

"We also believe that she (Bhutto) is not under house arrest," in her home town of Karachi, Khan added.